WARREN MAGAZINE

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VAMPIRELLA

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PDC

VAMPI
#28

OCT 1973

$1.00

VAMPIRELLA BECOMES A HUMAN SACRIFICE TO QUELL THE TWO-HUNDRED YEAR-OLD TERROR OF THE NEW DAEMONS!

WEREWOLF!

THE EXCITING GAME OF DETECTIVE SKILL!

Hours of monsterific fun are yours when you play WEREWOLF, Vampirella's engrossing detective game. It's great fun for the entire family. And it's complete to this special summer issue of VAMPIRELLA! See the inside back cover for assembly instructions.

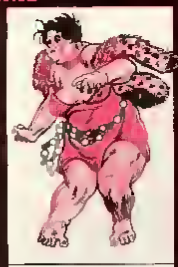
HOW TO PLAY

WEREWOLF is a game of detective skill for two to six players. In it, there is a werewolf loose in one of the five houses on the game board. And the werewolf has committed a murder! Each player is attempting to discover three things: (1) WHO is the WEREWOLF? (2) WHO did the WEREWOLF murder? and (3), in which HOUSE was the murder committed? The first player to solve the crime and answer all three questions, wins the game!

SPINNER ARROW

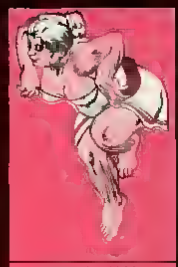
PAWNS

RED PEEPERS



SCARLET O'HARE

PINKIE CLAW



CHERRY PITTS

THE SCARLET CRIMSON

RUBY LISP

PLAYER CARDS

RED PEEPERS WEREWOLF

CHERRY PITTS WEREWOLF

RUBY LISP WEREWOLF

PINKIE CLAW WEREWOLF

SCARLET O'HARE WEREWOLF

CRIMSON PIMP WEREWOLF

OGRE'S CASTLE

SLAUGHTER HOUSE

HOUSE OF HUSHER

HOUSE OF THE BASKERVILLES

HOUSE OF COMMONERS

RED PEEPERS THE VICTIM

CHERRY PITTS THE VICTIM

RUBY LISP THE VICTIM

PINKIE CLAW THE VICTIM

SCARLET O'HARE THE VICTIM

CRIMSON PIMP THE VICTIM

HOUSE OF COMMONERS

HOW TO START

Once you have followed the instructions on the inside cover and your game is completely assembled, each player chooses one pawn — the pawn he will be throughout the game. A player may choose to be PINKIE CLAW, SCARLET O'HAIR, RUBY LISP, RED PEEPERS, CHERRY PITTS, or THE CRIMSON PIMPERNEL.

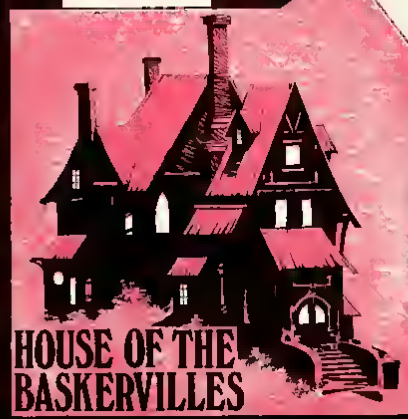
The CARDS are then distributed and placed face down in three separate piles: The cards naming the WEREWOLF in one pile, the cards naming the VICTIM in another, and the cards with the names of the HOUSES in the third pile. One card should be chosen from each pile and placed on the board, upside down! These three cards hold the name of the VICTIM, the name of the WEREWOLF, and the HOUSE where the werewolf murdered his victim.

TO BEGIN

Place all player's pawns in the Ogre's Castle. The player who spins the highest number moves first. The player on his left spins to move next, and so on. Each player will move his pawn the number of spaces he twirls on the spinner.

Players may move in ANY DIRECTION they wish, and proceed to the house they believe the WEREWOLF has committed his foul deed. Once they are in the house, they may make an ACCUSATION.

To make an ACCUSATION, the player simply states: "I believe the werewolf is _ (name one player), the victim is _ (name another), and the murder was committed in this house!" The player must name ALL THREE correctly to win the game. However, if any player holds a card that can disprove another's accusation, he must show that card to the player making the accusation. Only ONE card is needed to be shown to disprove any accusation at any one time.



HOUSE OF THE BASKERVILLES

OUR COVER
From out of the slime it comes! The monster who has trod the waters of Loch Eene for two hundred years. It hungers for fresh human flesh. It hungers for VAMPIRELLA. It is "The Curse of the MacDaemons." Page 7.

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VAMPIRELLA

6 **VAMPI'S VAULT** It's no secret! Some of our writers use *phoney names!* But this weirdo *Bruce Bezaire* refuses to change his name to something a little more *believable!*

7 **CURSE OF MacDAEMONS** VAMPIRELLA becomes a human sacrifice to appease the *hunger* of the centuries old creature inhabiting the moors of Scotland.

20 **CLASH OF THE LEVIATHANS** Earth, the global-paradise. The germ-free Garden of Eden. World of peace and plenty. Or so it was, more than a *million years* ago!

30 **BLIND MAN'S GUIDE** He was just an old blind man, accompanied by a boy and his dog. But he had the villagers *eating* out of his hand. Until the dog decided to eat *his.*

39 **THE POWER AND THE GORY** A young girl is victimized by a small town's corruption, and unjustly labeled a *witch!* Super-color from the talented brush of *Auraleon.*

47 **EYE DON'T WANT TO DIE** An old man is *stabbed to death* in his bed. And his pretty, young assassin is *haunted.* Haunted by the old man's small *glass eye!*

54 **THE OTHER SIDE OF HEAVEN** The *creature* had been *waiting.* It had crawled out of the sea to bestow a gift on the fisherman known as Thomas. The gift of *paradise!*

64 **OLD TEXAS ROAD** A dark and lonely country road . . . a stalled car, out of gas . . . and two lovers! The perfect setting for *romance.* Or the perfect setup for *murder!*

83 **WEREWOLF** Who's the *real werewolf?* Is it *Ruby Lisp? Pinkie Claw?* or *Scarlet O'Hare?* There's only *one* werewolf. And it could be *you* when you play the *free* game, in this issue!

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Full Color Comics draw Reader's raves!

I would like to express my gratitude, as editor and publisher of **"The Creative Adventure,"** for your active support of comics fandom as evidenced through your "Fanzine Reviews" column.

I think I can speak for all of comics fandom in thanking you for your public interest in our endeavors.

DAVID KASAKOVE
Port Washington, N.Y.

Glad we could be of service, David.

VAMPIRELLA #24 was great! "Into the Inferno" was an exceptional fast-moving story. The whole plot was handled superbly. I was glad we got a look into Pendragon's past.

"Homo Superior" was another excellent story that managed to maintain suspense throughout.

RONNIE BLAIR
Cumberland, Kentucky

A tip of the O'Conner hat to **Bill DuBay** and **Jose Gonzalez** for their excellent handling of a difficult theme in VAMPIRELLA #25. **Gonzalez'** art on "What Price Love" was at its usual high level, once again managing to build upon the story's mood perfectly.

The color section is a great addition to your already fine magazine. Unfortunately, your use of color leaves a lot to be desired. One need only glance through your excellent **DRACULA** book to see how much better the coloring could have been. **Esteban Maroto** seems to draw differently for color than he draws for black and white, apparently relying on the color for some of his effects. Don't let him down.

"The Dead Howl At Midnight" was an interesting course in what to do once you've built your own humans. But it ignores what will happen when the body parts begin to grow at differing rates. Interesting story possibility there. How about expanding upon it at some later date.

An enjoyable issue although I have some reservations about your coloring. Hope you show us what you can really do in upcoming issues.

LIAM O'CONNER
Brooklyn, N.Y.

Vampi's fans were glad to learn more of Pendragon's past and greeted the stories in VAMPIRELLA #24 & 25 with high praise

In the past, I never felt I owed anyone enough gratitude to justify the investment of writing a fan letter. No longer. I've really flipped over VAMPIRELLA.

You certainly made a swift conquest of me. Only a few short months ago, I picked up my first issue (#23) of your excellent magazine. I was bored and wanted a cheap thrill that would kill some time. Now, two and a half months, $39.00 worth of back issues, and one poster later, I can honestly say that I consider you one of the great heroines of modern fiction and your storyline one of the great gothic adventures of all time.

Some complain, Dear Vampi, that your story (and even your personality) is not dark enough. If you were no more than a sexy monster, you'd be no more than a momentary diversion, a two-dimensional gimmick of whom many of us would soon tire. Your charm, the magic that makes me take the trouble to write this letter in the first place, lies in the fact that you are not easily characterized and reduced to stereotype. Your greatness results from the mixture of your unpredictable conflicting impulses, because of your vulnerability, because at heart (like most of us) you really mean well, because when you cry, you cry real tears.

And that's why we read your magazine! Not because you're a spook who scares us, but because we can share your fears and fear for you as we travel with you through a representative gallery of life's evils. We see in you a heightened reflection of our own humanity, our own sense of apartness, our own moral plight. Ironically, though a vampiress, you represent all the beauty and nobility that mankind is all too seldom capable of rising to in real life. But that we instinctively applaud in whatever rare persons (like you) that we see it embodied.

A few suggestions. Eventually, why not have Vampi and friends embark upon a series of adventures into other times, or perhaps flee ungrateful Earth altogether in search of other, alien worlds. Keep the Van Helsings and Pendragon. A creditable, three-dimensional character cannot exist in a vacuum. Finally, if a movie should ever be made, play it straight! And don't cast someone like Raquel Welch as Vampi. Get someone who could be subordinate to the role.

CLIFF WARREN
New Carrollton, Maryland

Will someone please tell **Bill DuBay** to do his homework before he attempts to write another story in the VAMPIRELLA saga.

In issue #25's story, "What Price Love," while Vampi flees from the cell after disposing of the guard, **DuBay** states that the guard is the first person Vampirella has ever killed. Not So, as anyone who has been following the series on a regular basis already knows. In issue #14's "Isle of the Huntress," Vampi very efficiently disposes of Vivienne, the tragic werewolf. In "Death's Dark Angel," (VAMPIRELLA #12), she does the same to W.W. Wade.

It can be argued that since Vivienne was a werewolf and Wade had deliberately goaded Vampi into attacking him, she wasn't really "responsible" for their deaths. I could concede this point, but let's take a closer look through the earlier issues. She avenges Tristan's murder in the 1972 VAMPIRELLA annual by going after the exploration party that killed him. All the way back in issue #8's "Who Serves the Cause of Chaos," **Archie Goodwin** had hinted that prior to the airline crash she had been involved in, everybody's favorite Drakulonian had for an unknown amount of time been forced to survive as a huntress.

Mistakes aside, though, **Bill Dubay** did an exceptional job on "What Price Love." Though a trifle short, it was still a fast, tightly plotted thriller. Also a very frightening story as it provides the reader with an unpleasant view of what VAMPIRELLA is really capable of doing if her bloodlust goes completely out of control. **Gonzalez'** work was up to the same high level of quality it has maintained for as long as he's handled the strip.

The rest of the issue was the usual fine blending of supernatural, heroic fantasy, and psycho-drama. I particularly liked the use of color on **Esteban Maroto's** art for "Nimrod." Why not color one of Vampi's adventures and see what reader response is like? I'd really be interested to see how **Gonzalez'** artwork looks in color.

NORMAN E. DAVISON
Union, New Jersey

A color VAMPIRELLA feature graced our last issue, Norman. Hope you liked it!

Without doubt, **Warren** has blazed the way into a new dimension of comic art. VAMPI #25 is the best issue yet!!!

PETER GUMBRILL
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia

"Revolutionary! Exciting!"

VAMPIRELLA #25 was really fantastic. "The Haunted Child" was an excellent story, made even better by excellent artistry. **Auraleon's** artwork is something else. How he constantly manages to achieve such a polished look is more than I can know. He truly ranks with such comic art masters as **Neal Adams** and **Steve Ditko**. I hope to see much, much more of his fine work in upcoming Warren magazines.

I agree with the many readers who are clamoring for a new Warren magazine featuring science fiction and other stories that might be out of place in VAMPIRELLA or your companion books, CREEPY and EERIE.

RICHARD MAYHEW
Cumberland, Md.

I am speechless, unable to conceive of words expressive enough to describe VAMPIRELLA #25. The entire issue was simply superb.

"What Price Love" has to be the best story in the VAMPIRELLA saga since Issue #17's excellent "Beware the Dreamers."

LARRY McCOY
Fontan, Calif.

I just have to write and tell you that there has never been a dull moment since I began reading VAMPIRELLA. The art in your magazine is indescribably beautiful. **Esteban Maroto's** artistry is out of this world and **Jose Gonzalez** makes you ever more beautiful with each passing issue.

I hope to see more of Dracula in your magazine. The issues he appeared in were some of the best you've ever published.

Keep up the great work.

GILLIAN BAKER
Bramalea, Ontario

Dracula appears semi-regularly in his own series in EERIE! Hope you continue to enjoy his (and my own) adventures as much as you have in the past.

Congratulations on your great full color supplement. "Nimrod" was far and away the best story in the issue. The coloring was absolutely fantastic, miles beyond that of the usual, smaller size comic book. Please don't make the whole issue color, though. Warren is and always has been first and best in black & white comics.

Enrich's cover was magnificent; one of the greatest paintings you've ever run.

JACK MONNINGER
Indianapolis, Indiana

My first taste of the Warren magazines was back with the early issues of CREEPY. I didn't particularly enjoy them so I passed up VAMPIRELLA #1 when it came out. I finally decided to give you a chance with issue #20 and discovered what a terrible mistake I'd been making. I was so impressed with your wonderful mag that I sent for all the back issues I could get my hands on. My only regret is that I was unable to obtain issue #3 or the 1972 yearbook before they were sold out.

I really enjoy your science fiction stories although I can sympathize with readers who don't want to see them in a horror magazine. Why not publish a magazine featuring science fiction, fantasy, and sword and sorcery. It would be a splendid companion to your other titles and would satisfy both groups of fans. It's about time Warren Publications added a new mag to its fine lineup.

BRIAN McCRARY
Lake City, Iowa

Boy have we got some surprises for you, Brian.

I found "The Gremlin's" criticism of VAMPIRELLA (issue #22) very amusing. I have to agree with her evaluation of the artwork, stories, and characterization but must disagree with her accusations of chauvinism. My dear "Gremlin," being a healthy female with an interest in the opposite sex does not preclude having an appreciation for perfection of the female form. I can appreciate an attractive woman and I don't consider myself especially perverse. Why doesn't The Gremlin disapprove of heroes always rendered as handsome, incredibly muscular and vigorous young men? Isn't that just as "sexist" as idealizing women? I don't see any male readers complaining. I suspect it is not so much "chauvinism" The Gremlin objects to, as the artist's choice of depicting pertection in the human form. It may be unrealistic but I find it much more aesthetic.

VAMPIRELLA herself cannot be considered chauvinistic. She knows the extent of her powers and is not afraid to assert herself and use those powers when necessary, even against the advice of others. She trusts her own judgement and that is definitely not a characteristic of oppressed females. As far as I'm concerned, Vampi is pertect in every way.

ARLENE LO
Plainview, N.Y.

"Warren has blazed the way to a new dimension of comic art," writes reader Jack Monninger of our new full-color comics.

"The Choice," along with nice artwork, did possess an adequate theme and managed to utilize the old familiar standbys, vampires and werewolves, in an intelligent manner, presenting the reader with an interesting question at the end. All the blood and gore had a purpose, so it was allowable.

The last story, "Changes," was both purposeless and unnecessary. Like the other stories, it was simply not up to par. Try a little harder.

RITA LEE KOENIGSBERG
Salem, Connecticut

I was elated to discover that your magazine will be coming out more often this year. At long last you've emerged from the rut of bi-monthly publication and will be gracing the newsstands nine times a year. Congratulations!

Your magazine is really exceptional. My only suggestion is that Vampi be featured in longer stories and get the cover spotlight more often. After all, the only way you can make VAMPIRELLA better is to give us more of her.

GREG W. MYERS
Elida, Ohio

WHAT'S A POOR VAMPI TO DO?

"I get awfully lonely between adventures and your letters always turn me on."

Rush them to:
SCARLET LETTERS
c/o Warren Publishing Co.
145 East 32nd Street
New York, N.Y. 10016

VAMPI'S VAULT

HERE'S THE BIZARRE STORY BEHIND

BRUCE BEZAIRE

THE CREEPY WRITER WITH THE EERIE NAME

There used to be a time when the only writers who would touch stories of terror and the macabre, were authors born with names like **Smith, Jones** or **Doe**. Of course, undramatic names like these were quickly **changed**, and in print Sam **Smith** became known as Sam **Slaughter**, Fred **Jones** magically became Fred **Fate** and John **Doe** was replaced by John **Justice**!

Sometimes these pseudonyms were created by lusty editors who wanted to "spice up" their publications But more often than not, they were conceived by the **writer**, who didn't particularly want his friends and relatives to know he was contributing to a (heaven's forbid) "horror" magazine

This practice of writers hiding their real identity from the public still continues today However it's toned down a bit from the good old days when the pocket pulps were crammed-pack with **Slaughters, Fates, Justices** and more! Today, readers are more sophisticated and can spot a phony name a mile off

Which brings us to introducing the newest member of our writing staff, **Bruce Bezaire**!

We can hear you now, "**Bruce Bezaire**, the **bizarre** comics writer? Who're you guys trying to kid?!" Honest, that's his real name!

We told Bruce nobody would believe it! We even asked him to change his name to something a little more realistic like **Sam Smith** or **John Jones**! He refused! He said his mother always wanted him to **grow up** and become a **horror writer**!

So half of his mother's wish is fulfilled anyway!

The first of Bruce's contributions to the **Warren** magazines is the short story, "Old Texas Road" in this month's VAMPIRELLA. Like most of Bruce's work, it's a macabre shocker. Strong on solid **horror**! He's also teamed up with artist **Rich Buckler** on a thriller entitled "Snow," forthcoming in an issue of CREEPY And his new series for EERIE, "Night of the Jackass" is just weird enough to keep you hanging on for issues to come

Bruce's statistics aren't nearly as impressive as his writing But we'll list them anyway He was born and raised in Windsor, Ontario, Canada, where he now teaches at the University of Windsor **That's** his life story

His measurements? A neat 36-36-36 (His height, width and hat size.) His big goal in life? Bruce's only wish is to live to see the day editors stop encouraging him to change his name to **Sam Smith**! •

A chilling nightmare world where man's only threat is himself. "Snow," a forthcoming epic by Rich Buckler and Bruce Bezaire.

The EDITOR'S BOX

Now that you're all snuggled up with this magazine, leisurely relaxing in your own little fantasy world, we hate to be the ones to shatter your dreams with **reality**. But sometimes reality is necessary

The awful truth of the matter is: **summer's almost over**. The good times, the leisurely do-nothing days, the beautiful weather all of it, is almost **gone**! Soon vacations will end and you'll be returning to school or work And all that will remain of the summer are a few warm, lingering **memories**.

But what's the point of bringing this all **up**? Summer's **not over yet**, right? The point is only this it's been a beautiful summer for **us** here at **Warren Publishing Company**. But it wouldn't have been half as beautiful without **you**.

Whether you realize it or not, **you**, the reader, make all our efforts **worthwhile**.

Everything **we've** done this summer.. the **games**, the **posters**, the **color stories**... **everything**!... it's all been done with the hope that it would somehow make this summer better for **you**!

We continually strive for **perfect magazines**. We don't always succeed Sometimes we fall **flat on our faces**! But we **try**! And this summer we hope we've been successful in entertaining you even if for just a short time

Unlike the summer, however, this doesn't have to **end**. Whether you return to school or work, we hope that you'll find a bit of extra time for the latest issues of CREEPY, EERIE and VAMPIRELLA We'll be here with more games, more posters, and more of the absolute **best** in comic art!

We hope you'll be here to share it with **us**!

FANZINE REVIEWS

FANZINES are amateur publications produced by comic book fans, geared to an audience with a similar interest in comics. They contain a diversity of material, from historical articles on comics of the **past**, to discussions of **current** comics and news of comics **yet to come**! Fanzines are available **only** by MAIL, direct from their publishers! We think you'll enjoy reading some of the better examples from the present fanzine market!

BARNEY'S COMIX
6051 Scenic Avenue
Hollywood, Ca. 90068
15¢

ROCKET'S BLAST
9875 S.W. 212 Street
Miami, Florida 33157
$1.00

ETCETERA
383 East 58 Street
Brooklyn, N.Y. 11203
60¢

Uncle Barney's Comix is one of those truly rare fanzines that manages to combine a wealth of fascinating, high-quality material with an unbelievably low price This excellent magazine focuses on cartooning in both animation and comic strips Each issue features the latest news in the animation industry, as well as several pages of top quality amateur comic strips Issue #5 includes an interview with **Doug Wildey**, creator-artist of the comic strip, "Ambler."

Fanzines come and go, but The Rocket's Blast-Comicollector seemingly lasts forever It's the oldest continuously published comics fanzine in the world And with good reason While each issue features an excellent assortment of columns, articles, indexes, and artwork by fandom's best, RB-CC is noted primarily for its advertising If you want to buy or sell old or new comics, movie or nostalgia items, Rocket's Blast-Comicollector is the fanzine for you!

Intelligent, well-written fanzines are a hard thing to find these days Rarer still are ones that are reasonably priced. Etcetera's high quality and low price succeed admirably at fulfilling these qualifications It's pages are filled with entertaining articles on comics Star Trek, fan conventions, and related subjects. What's more, Etcetera features exceptional layout and printing that makes it an enjoyable'zine to read Well-worth its 60¢ price tag

THE PERMUTATIONS OF CHANCE THAT MIGHT BRING TOGETHER THE ORBITS OF TWO **RANDOM SOULS** STAND SOMEWHERE IN THE UNCOUNTABLE MILLIONS...

ON THE ONE HAND WE HAVE ALASTAIR MACDAEMON, SIXTEENTH HEREDITARY LAIRD OF CLAN MACDAEMON (EDUCATED ETON AND MAGDALEN COLLEGE, OXFORD, SCOTS GUARDS, FOREIGN OFFICE...ALMOST **CERTAIN** TO END UP AS ONE OF HER MAJESTY'S AMBASSADORS).

ON THE OTHER HAND WE HAVE A BREATH-ROBBINGLY BEAUTIFUL SHE-CREATURE WHO HAS TRAVELLED TO EARTH FROM THE FAR-OFF ***VAMPIRE*** PLANET OF ***DRAKULON***, A CREATURE WHO CAN ONLY LIVE AS A ***NORMAL WOMAN*** BY DRINKING ***BLOOD SUBSTITUTE*** SERUM EVERY TWENTY-FOUR HOURS. A ***SHE-VAMPIRE***, WITH THE POWER TO TURN HERSELF INTO A ***BLOOD-IMBIBING BAT*** AT WILL!

BUT THE GODS - GOOD OR EVIL .... WILL HAVE THEIR SPORT AND IN DEFIANCE OF CHANCE OR PROBABILITY, THE ORBITS OF THE ***SCOTTISH ARISTOCRAT*** AND THE ***DRAKULON VAMPIRESS*** MEET AND CLASH...IN A MUTUALLY-DESTRUCTIVE COLLISION.

VAMPIRELLA AND THE CURSE OF THE MACDAEMONS!

STORY: FLAXMAN LOEW / ART: JOSE GONZALEZ

THERE IS NO PLACE ON EARTH SO MUNDANE, SO COMMONPLACE, THAT THE TRAILING FINGERS OF NIGHT AND MIST CANNOT TRANSFORM INTO A PLACE OF ***MYSTERY*** AND ***UNEASE***. HOW GREAT, THEN, IS THE EFFECT UPON A HABITATION SO ***ANCIENT***, SO ***BIZARRE***, SO STEEPED IN ***RITUAL*** AND ***BLOOD*** AS THE THOUSAND YEAR-OLD FORTRESS OF IRON AND GRANITE THAT STANDS PERCHED UPON A RAGGY ISLET IN REMOTE LOCH EERIE.

CASTLE GRAYVE... ISLE-FORTRESS OF THE LAIRDS OF MACDAEMON!!

THE BOOMING STROKES OF MIDNIGHT REVERBERATE THROUGH THE HOLLOW FASTNESSES OF THE CRUMBLING PILE, AND DUNCAN, HEREDITARY LAIRD OF CLAN MACDAEMON, RISES AND BECKONS HIS SON.

THE TIME HAS COME, MY DEAR ALASTAIR. I SUPPOSE IT WOULD BE IN ORDER TO OFFER YOU GREETINGS UPON YOUR TWENTY-FIRST BIRTHDAY, BUT THE WORDS WOULD CHOKE IN MY THROAT. I CAN ONLY BE GRATEFUL THAT YOU HAVE COME OF AGE ...SO THAT I AM RELIEVED OF THE ***AWFUL BURDEN*** ***I*** HAVE CARRIED SINCE ***I*** WAS TWENTY-ONE!

AT THE TOP OF A COMPLEX OF ECHOING CORRIDORS AND STAIRCASES IS AN IRON-BOUND ***DOOR***, STUDDED WITH MASSY BOLTS AND LOCKED ABOUT WITH PADLOCKS AND CHAINS.

SO NOW, AT LAST, I'M TO BE INTRODUCED TO THE FAMILY SECRET. I HOPE IT'S SOMETHING ***AMUSING***, FATHER. IT WOULD BE ***SUCH*** A BORE IF IT WEREN'T!

BE FLIPPANT BY ALL MEANS, MY DEAR ALASTAIR...YOU'LL ***NEVER*** HAVE THE CHANCE AGAIN AS LONG AS YOU ***LIVE!***

THE LAST CHAIN FALLS... THE LAST BOLT CREAKS BACK.. AND THE HEAVY DOOR GROANS OPEN...

I DON'T SEE ANYTHING... ***WAIT!*** WHAT'S THAT MOVING OVER THERE?!

OH, MY GOD...

E-E-E-AAAGHHH

MY POOR ALASTAIR...MY BELOVED LAD.. NOW YOU HAVE SEEN THE ***HORROR*** I'VE LIVED WITH ALL THESE YEARS. YOU'LL COME TO KNOW IT TOO... THE ***ROTTING*** OF THE ***SOUL***... THE VERY ***LIFE-FORCE FILTHIED***...

I'M GLAD IT'S ALL YOURS NOW, MY BOY! AND I'M.... ***FREE...***

...AND AS THE REVOLVER TOUCHED HIS MOUTH, THE LAIRD OF MACDAEMON ***SMILED*** WITH PURE ***JOY!***

SPLAT!

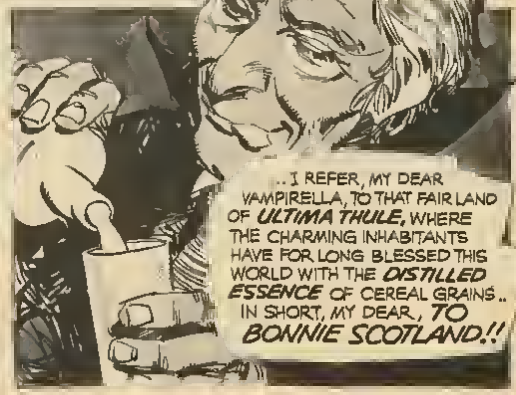
PENDRAGON, ILLUSIONIST EXTRAORDINAIRE, IS BACK IN BUSINESS...
THE GREAT PENDRAGON WITH VAMPIRELLA!!
AND EVERYTHING IS GREAT EXCEPT FOR ONE THING...

...BUSINESS IS LOUSY!
PENDY, ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS STAY SOBER ENOUGH TO SAY ABRACADABRA!
EXIT
I BOW TO YOUR GENTLE IMPEACHMENT VAMPI MY DEAR. TALENT DOES WHAT IT CAN...WHILE GENIUS DOES WHAT IT MUST
MORE BILLS?. OUR CREDITORS FLY THICK AND FAST

PHEEEEW! ZOWIE! LIKEWISE, ZAP!
WHAT IS IT?
IN THE WORDS OF THE IMMORTAL BARD, I AM A MAN WHO HAS TAKEN FORTUNE'S BUFFETS AND REWARDS WITH EQUAL THANKS. AND I NOW REJOICE TO BE IN THE LATTER STATE...

SLOW AND EASY...SO I CAN TAKE IT ALL IN
IN BRIEF TERMS, MY DEAR, AN INDIGENT RELATION HAS DIED, AND IN HIS DYING HAS REVEALED THAT HE WAS NOT ALL THAT DAMN INDIGENT! HE HAS LEFT ME THREE THOUSAND DOLLARS!

WHAT SHALL YOU DO WITH THE MONEY, PENDY?
WE WILL SPLURGE IT ALL ON A TRIP TO EUROPE, MY DEAR! TO BE PRECISE, THAT PART OF EUROPE.. THE FAIREST AND DEAREST PART...


...I REFER, MY DEAR VAMPIRELLA, TO THAT FAIR LAND OF ULTIMA THULE, WHERE THE CHARMING INHABITANTS HAVE FOR LONG BLESSED THIS WORLD WITH THE DISTILLED ESSENCE OF CEREAL GRAINS.. IN SHORT, MY DEAR, TO BONNIE SCOTLAND!!

THE DANK MIST LIES OVER THE LITTLE GRAVEYARD BY THE LOCH. THE SHOVEL-LOADS OF WET EARTH **THUD** DOWN UPON THE COFFIN.

AND WITH THE NIGHTFALL IT BRINGS... ***HUMAN VULTURES!***

A FINE BIG FELLER WAS ANGUS McKIE... WEIGHS A **TON!**

AYE! WE'RE LUCKY TO GET HIM, GOD REST HIS SOUL.

THE TWO GHOULS **STAGGER** AWAY INTO THE SHADOWS WITH THEIR HEAVY BURDEN.

TOMORROW WE'LL HAVE TO MAKE SHIFT WI' A **TOURIST.**

AYE! AND THERE'LL BE **QUESTIONS** ASKED ... BUT IT'S ALWAYS THE ***LOCH EERIE MONSTER*** THAT GETS THE BLAME! HEH, HEH!

DAYLIGHT. THE HIGH SUN IN THE WINE-FRESH SKY BRINGS A **DIFFERENT** APPEARANCE TO THE GRIM LOCH. A TOURING BUS BRINGS VAMPIRELLA AND PENDRAGON JOUNCING DOWN THE HIGHLAND ROAD...

...ON YOUR **LEFT**, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, IS **LOCH EERIE**, FAMOUS THE WORLD OVER FOR ITS LEGENDARY ***MONSTER***. THE LADY ASKS ME IF THERE'S ANY **TRUTH** TO THE LEGEND...

ALL I CAN SAY, MADAME, IS, THAT IT'S A VERY ***FISHY TALE***, AND I WOULDN'T WANT YOU TO GO SWIMMING IN THE LOCH, FOR FEAR THAT YOU MIGHT HAVE A ***WHALE*** OF A BAD TIME !! HAR, HAR!

THE TOUR IS REGISTERED AT THE VILLAGE HOTEL. VAMPIRELLA AND PENDRAGON TAKE A STROLL IN THE GATHERING GLOOM. WHERE THE DYING SCENT OF HEATHER LIES ON THE NIGHT AIR LIKE *FUNERAL-FLOWERS*.

IT'S A **WONDERFUL** COUNTRY! EVERYTHING **CHANGES** AFTER DARK. IT REMINDS ME OF *DRAKULON*! I MIGHT ALMOST BE STROLLING BY ONE OF OUR LOVELY LAKES OF *BLOOD!*

FORTIFIED AS I AM BY THE LOCAL *SPIRIT* – OR SHOULD I SAY THE *VIN DU PAYS?* – I AM ABLE FULLY TO **APPRECIATE** YOUR SENTIMENTAL ASSOCIATIONS WITH YOUR HOME-PLANET, MY DEAR VAMPI!

SUDDENLY... *ASSAULT!*

SMASH 'EM, JOCK!

AAAAH! WE'RE BEING *MUGGED!* THE NATIVES ARE *HOSTILE!*

THU-U-UCKKK!

UUUUUUGHHH!

VAMPIRELLA RIPS OFF HER TRENDY LEATHER COAT, AND STANDS GARBED IN HER *DRAKULON FIGHTING-STRIP*.

I SENSE **EVIL**... SOMETHING BEYOND AND ABOVE A MERE MUGGING FOR PROFIT AND SADISTIC PLEASURE...! IT'S SOMETHING *ELEMENTAL*... *LIFE-LOATHING*... *COSMICALLY VILE!*

ZLAP!!

SCH-ZUNKKK!!

YE'RE A RARE TOOTHSOME **LASSIE**... AND I'D RATHER BE TAKIN' MA PLEASURE O' YE TONIGHT THAN SEE ALL THAT SMOOTH YOUNG *FLESH* WASTED!

PRESENTLY, VAMPIRELLA AND PENDRAGON ARE BORNE OVER THE WIDE LOCH... TO THE LOWERING BULK OF THE ISLE-FORTRESS OF THE MACDAEMONS.

LATER, IN THE CHILL GREAT HALL OF HIS CASTLE, ***ALASTAIR MACDAEMON*** GAZES UPON THE UNCONSCIOUS FACE AND FORM OF THE LOVELY CREATURE FROM ***DRAKULON.***

A COUPLE O' TOURISTS, LAIRD. THEY DIDNA GIVE US ANY TROUBLE, AND THE MONSTER O' THE LOCH WILL GET ANY ***BLAME*** THAT'S COMING!

YOU HAVE DONE WELL, ANGUS

BY ALL THE DEMONS IN HADES! THAT GIRL... NEVER IN MY LIFE HAVE I SEEN SUCH A MAGNIFICENT... SUCH AN EXQUISITELY MADE

WE'LL BE OFF THEN, LAIRD. YE'LL NO BE WANTING ANY MORE TOURISTS OR STIFFS... FOR A COUPLE O' DAYS, I'M THINKING.

EH? .. YES... LEAVE ME, BOTH OF YOU.

SOME VERSES SEEM TO BE RUNNING THROUGH MY MIND...

THE LAIRD OF CLAN MACDAEMON HAS CHANGED MUCH SINCE THAT **FATEFUL** NIGHT-TWO YEARS BEFORE-WHEN HIS FATHER ADMITTED HIM TO THE DREAD ***SECRET*** BEHIND THE ***LOCKED DOOR.***

I HAVE IT.. ***"THAT NOT IMPOSSIBLE SHE, THAT SHALL COMMAND MY HEART AND ME."***

IT CAN'T BE HAPPENING TO ME... AFTER THE YEARS OF HORROR AND SELF-DISGUST...

UP... UP... UP.. TO THE REMOTE FASTNESS OF THE GREAT BUILDING. UP TO ***THE LOCKED ROOM!***

WOULD IT EVER BE POSSIBLE... WITH A GIRL LIKE THAT... TO WASH AWAY THE ***SHAME*** AND THE ***DEGRADATION?*** DOES SHE HAVE ENOUGH ***TEARS*** TO ADD TO MINE. TO CLEANSE THE ***BLOOD*** FROM MY HANDS?

INSIDE THE LOCKED ROOM, THE STENCH OF ANCIENT ***CORRUPTION*** MEETS HIS NOSTRILS, SO THAT... AS USUAL... HE NEARLY RETCHES. ***SOMETHING*** STIRS IN THE SHADOWS. PUTTING ON A FALSE VOICE... ***COAXING AND BEGUILING***... ALASTAIR ADDRESSES THE ***THING*** THAT LIES THERE...

I HAVE NO FOOD FOR YOU TONIGHT, MY LOVE...

DON'T BE ANGRY WITH ME, MY DARLING.

AS ALWAYS, I HAVE BROUGHT YOU... ***I HAVE BROUGHT YOU... LOVE!***

VAMPIRELLA AWAKES WITH THE SOUND OF BIRD-SONGS AND THE SWEET SMELL BORNE ON THE MORNING BREEZE. LEAPING FROM THE RICHLY-CANOPIED BED, SHE FLIES TO THE OPEN WINDOW, AND GAZES OUT AT THE STAGGERING SPECTACLE LAID OUT BEFORE HER.

WHERE AM I?... IT CAN'T BE .. BUT IT IS LIKE.. ORAKULON!

HAVE I BEEN TRANSPORTED IN MY SLEEP?... NO!... WE WERE ATTACKED... TWO MEN...

I'M ALASTAIR MACDAEMON. NO!... DON'T MOVE! STAY JUST AS YOU ARE. IF I WERE TO LIVE FOR-EVER, I WOULD WANT TO KEEP THE MEMORY OF YOU... JUST THE WAY YOU ARE AT THIS LIVING MOMENT!

I AM VAMPIRELLA.

THE LARKS IN THE HIGH SKY FIND A SUDDEN ECHO IN THE SONG THAT BEGINS... SUDDENLY AND UNBIDDEN... WITHIN THE HEART OF THE GIRL FROM ORAKULON.

VAMPIRELLA... YOU ARE THE NOT IMPOSSIBLE SHE... YOU ARE THE RIGHT HAND TO MY LEFT... YOU ARE LOVE!

A MILLION YEARS PASS, BUT IT IS ONLY A DAY. WHAT LIES BETWEEN THEM IS PURE... SPIRITUAL... UNDEFILED... CHASTE...

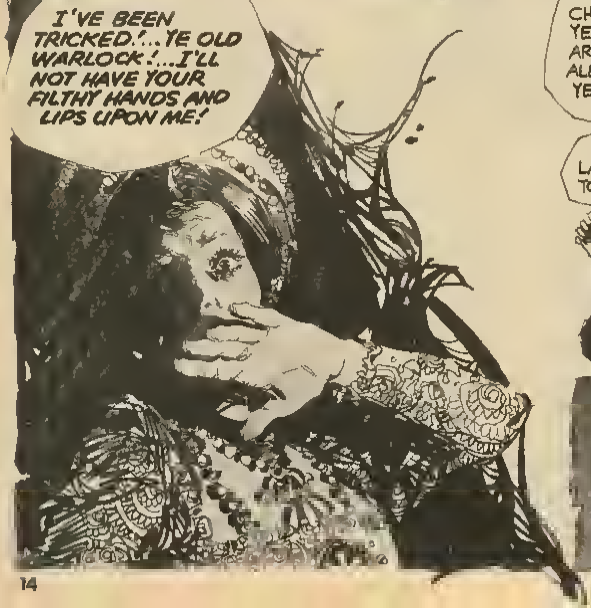
I AM GOING TO TELL YOU SOMETHING, VAMPIRELLA, THAT HAS REMAINED A SECRET IN MY FAMILY FOR TWO HUNDRED YEARS. THE HORROR OF IT OVERSPILLS IN MY MIND... AND YOU ARE THE ONLY PERSON WHO COULD EVER SHARE IT.

PLEASE... TELL ME, DARLING. I'VE KNOWN ALL ALONG THAT SOMETHING WAS TROUBLING YOU.

THE ***BRIDE*** OF THE LAIRD MACDAEMON WAS BROUGHT FROM EDINBURGH. SHE WAS FAIR OF FACE, AND SWEET-SMELLING ENOUGH TO DRIVE A RED-BLOODED HIGHLANDER ***MAD***.

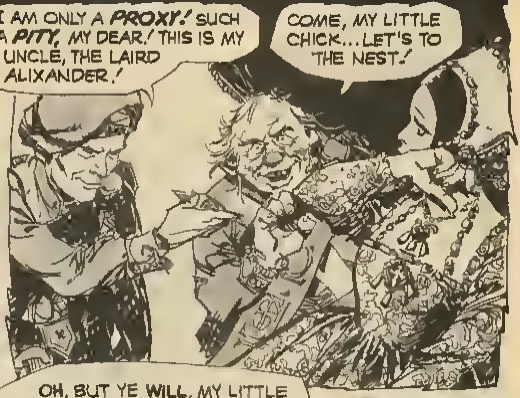
IT WAS AN **ARRANGED** MATCH. SHE HAD NEVER SEEN HER **HUSBAND-TO-BE**. SMALL WONDER THAT HER MAIDEN'S HEART LEAPT FOR JOY TO BEHOLD THE FINE, ***BRAW*** **YOUTH** WHO STOOD BEFORE HER.

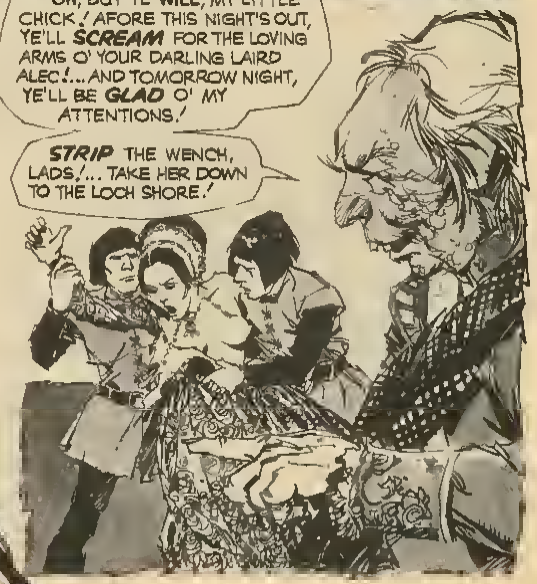
THEY WERE COMPLEMENTARY IN FACE AND FORM...TWO SPLENDID YOUNG ***ANIMALS***.



THE GLANCES THEY EXCHANGED DURING THE WEDDING SERVICE BETOKENED THE ***UNIMAGINABLE DELIGHTS*** TO COME...WHEN THEY RETIRED TO THE BRIDAL CHAMBER.

IT WAS A **HEADY** PROMISE THAT WAS NEVER TO BE **FULFILLED**. WITH THE WORDS OF THE BLESSING STILL RINGING IN HER EARS, SHE BEHELD THE ***RADDLED*** AND ***DEBAUCHED*** FACE OF HER TRUE HUSBAND.'





THEY **BOUND** THE NAKED AND TERRIFIED GIRL TO A **STAKE** BY THE **DARK SHORE** OF **LOCH EERIE**.

HERE YE'LL STAY TILL ***COCKCROW,*** MY BEAUTY.! MANY'S THE THING'S YE'LL SEE IN THE NIGHT, I'VE NO DOUBT.! THERE'LL BE ***GHOSTIES*** AND ***GHOULIES*** AND THINGS THAT GO ***BUMP*** IN THE NIGHT.! HEH, HEH.!

NIGHT FELL WITH THE PLAINTIVE SOUND OF OWLS IN THE PINE-CLAD SHORE, AND A ***CHILLNESS*** FELL OVER ALL.

TOWARDS MIDNIGHT, THE MAIDEN BECAME AWARE OF A ***DISTURBANCE*** FAR OUT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE DARK LOCH. IT WAS AS IF ***SOMETHING*** WAS ***MOVING*** OUT THERE... ***MOVING TOWARDS HER.!***

THEN.. IN A BLINDING INSTANT OF ***HORRIFIED AWARENESS*** SHE SAW... ***IT!***

EEEEEEEE-EEEEKKKK!!!!

NINE MONTHS LATER - OR A LITTLE MORE - THE LAIRD'S LADY WAS BROUGHT TO BED OF A CHILD...

MY ***TIME'S*** ON ME, NANNIE... I'M ***FRIGHTENED!***

THERE, THERE, MY DEARIE... ANNIE'LL LOOK AFTER YE.!

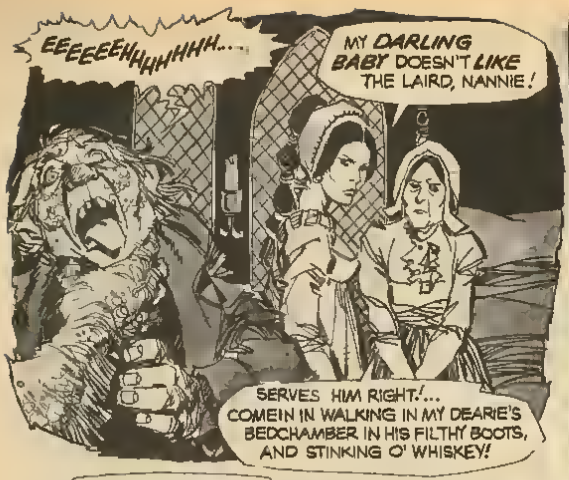
THAT NIGHT, THE LAIRD **RETURNED** FROM THE HUNT... DRUNK AND INCAPABLE AS USUAL.

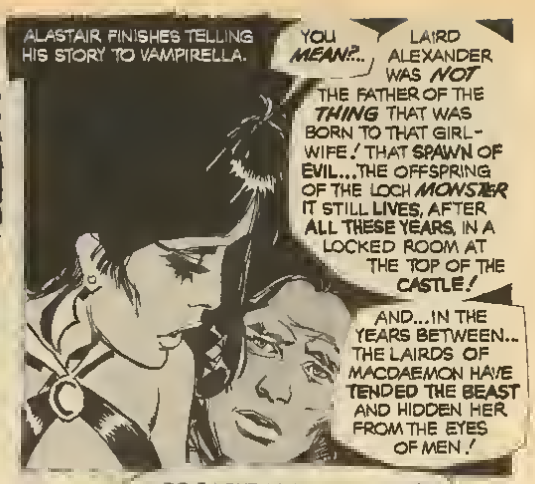
WHAT **NEWS**, YE OLD BAGGAGE.?. HAS MY LADY-WIFE ***HELPED*** YET, EH?

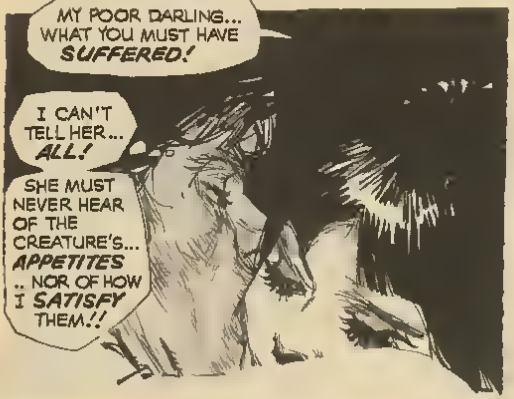
AYE, LAIRD.! MY LADY'S DELIVERED OF A ***GIRL-CHILD.*** MEBBE YE'D BE WISHING TO SEE THE BABY..!

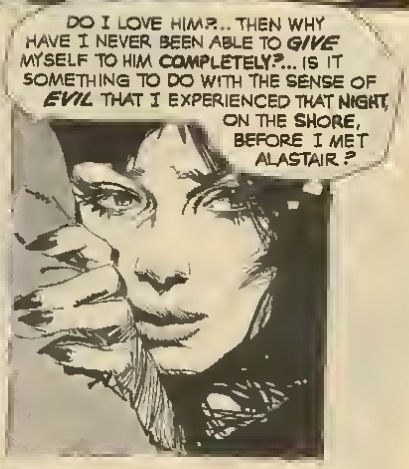
WELL THEN, MA WEE **BABY**... WEE **DAUGHTER** MINE... ***HIC!...***

AAAAAGHHHH! -NO!


EEEEEEHHHHHH...
MY DARLING BABY DOESN'T LIKE THE LAIRD, NANNIE!
SERVES HIM RIGHT!... COMEIN IN WALKING IN MY DEARIE'S BEDCHAMBER IN HIS FILTHY BOOTS, AND STINKING O' WHISKEY!


ALASTAIR FINISHES TELLING HIS STORY TO VAMPIRELLA.
YOU MEAN?..
LAIRD ALEXANDER WAS NOT THE FATHER OF THE THING THAT WAS BORN TO THAT GIRL-WIFE! THAT SPAWN OF EVIL...THE OFFSPRING OF THE LOCH MONSTER IT STILL LIVES, AFTER ALL THESE YEARS, IN A LOCKED ROOM AT THE TOP OF THE CASTLE!
AND...IN THE YEARS BETWEEN... THE LAIRDS OF MACDAEMON HAVE TENDED THE BEAST AND HIDDEN HER FROM THE EYES OF MEN!


MY POOR DARLING... WHAT YOU MUST HAVE SUFFERED!
I CAN'T TELL HER... ALL!
SHE MUST NEVER HEAR OF THE CREATURE'S... APPETITES .. NOR OF HOW I SATISFY THEM!!


DO I LOVE HIM?.. THEN WHY HAVE I NEVER BEEN ABLE TO GIVE MYSELF TO HIM COMPLETELY?... IS IT SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE SENSE OF EVIL THAT I EXPERIENCED THAT NIGHT ON THE SHORE, BEFORE I MET ALASTAIR?

THE THOUGHT LAY. .ON VAMPIRELLA'S MIND AND SO, SHE COMES TO A DECISION. .
DARLING, I MUST GO AWAY ...THINK IT OVER.
AFTER ALL, HE DOESN'T KNOW MY STORY YET! WHAT'S HE GOING TO THINK ABOUT MY BEING A VAMPIRE?
I...I QUITE UNDERSTAND, DARLING.
SHE'LL NEVER COME BACK!... NEVER!... ONCE SHE GOES AWAY, I'VE LOST HER FOREVER!

A DRINK, MY DARLING... A TOAST...TO US!

I'M NEVER GOING TO LET YOU GO! NO MATTER WHAT! EVEN IF YOU LOATHE ME ALL THROUGH ETERNITY, I'M NOT GOING TO LOSE YOU!

IT IS ***TWENTY-THREE*** HOURS BEFORE VAMPIRELLA RECOVERS FROM THE EFFECTS OF THE DRUG. BY THIS TIME, HER ***ALIEN METABOLISM*** IS CRAVING ONLY ONE THING! ***BLOOD!... FRESH, HOT, NEWLY-SUCKED FROM THE LIVING ARTERY!***

I CAN'T GET TO MY ***BLOOD SUBSTITUTE SERUM!...*** I'M GOING TO ***DIE...*** UNLESS... ***UNLESS...***

VAMPIRELLA!... TELL ME THAT YOU'LL STAY WITH ME ***FOREVER,*** OR THIS MISERABLE WRETCH WILL BE ***TORN*** TO PIECES AND ***DEVOURED*** BEFORE YOUR VERY EYES!

YOU WOULDN'T DO THAT, ALASTAIR... NOT ***YOU...***

DON'T PUSH ***MY*** LUCK, VAMP!

THEN THEY SEE... ***IT!***

COME FORTH, CURSE OF THE MACDAEMONS!... YOUR MEAT AWAITS YOU!

EAT!... EAT!

BUT THE TWO HUNDRED YEAR-OLD CURSE OF CLAN MACDAEMON IS ***PART-HUMAN,*** AND A ***WOMAN!*** THE BRAIN IN THAT HIDEOUS ***SKULL*** IS A ***REASONING, MAN-HATING*** ORGANISM!

AND, RIGHT NOW, THE MAN WHOM THE SHE-MONSTER ***HATES*** MOST OF ALL IN THE WORLD IS...

YE-E-E-E-E-E-EAAAAAHHH!!

ALASTAIR MACDAEMON, LAIRD OF CLAN MACDAEMON!.. IT IS TO HIM THAT THE SHE-MONSTER DIRECTS HER *HATRED!* HAS HE NOT STARVED HER OF *MEAT* FOR TWO DAYS? WHAT IS MORE, HAS HE NOT *DEPRIVED* HER OF *LOVE?* HAS HE NOT BEEN... *UNFAITHFUL?*

YOU ARE *MINE*, MY DARLING!... ALL I EVER WANTED!.. *SHE* MEANS NOTHING TO ME... *EEEAAAAAAHHH!*

IT IS A *VAMPIRE-BAT* OF DRAKULON THAT DESCENDS UPON THE GORGING SHE-MONSTER OF CASTLE GRAYVE!

GNAAAAGHH!

IT IS OVER!... THE TWO HUNDRED YEAR CURSE OF THE MACDAEMONS IS ALREADY MOULDERING!

VAMPIRELLA STRAINS IN HER BONDS... IN VAIN! THEN, SHE DIRECTS HERSELF INTO A *METAMORPHOSIS*...

DESCENDS... RENDS... SUCKS THE THICK, RED BLOOD!

EEEEEEEEHHH!

AWAY OUT ACROSS THE DARK LOCH, *SOMETHING* RISES FROM THE UNCHARTERED DEPTHS...

THE *TERROR* OF LOCH EERIE SENSES THAT IS *OFFSPRING* HAS BEEN DESTROYED...

...AND THE TEEMING EVIL WITHIN IT SCREAMS OUT IN A MILLION VOICES FOR *VENGEANCE!*

NEXT ISSUE: THE UNDEAD OF THE DEEP!

SCREAMING YOUR HEAD OFF BECAUSE YOU'RE MISSING...

VAMPIRELLA

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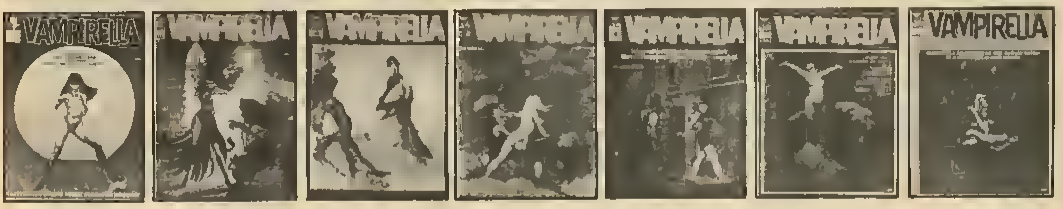
IS YOUR COLLECTION OF THE WORLD'S GRUEVIEST COMICS MAGAZINE INCOMPLETE? STOP GNASHING YOUR FANGS OUT AND ORDER THOSE MISSING ISSUES NOW!



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STORY. DOUG MOENOH / ART: RAMON TORRENTS

TARN FEELS THE SPRAY OF LAGOON WATER CASCADING OVER HIS THICK HIDE. HE FEELS THE WHIPPING SLAP OF THE CROCODILE'S TAIL AS THEY FRENZIEDLY THRASH ABOUT IN THE TURBULENCE OF A DESPERATE DEATH COMB, IT...
TARN'S BRAIN IS SMALL AND A LONG DISTANCE FROM HIS LEG...IT IS A WHILE BEFORE HE FEELS THE IRRITATING STING OF THE CROCODILE'S TEETH. BUT HE DOES NOT GIVE THE SNAPPING JAWS MUCH THOUGHT... HE IS TOO BUSY FEELING THE SATISFYING REND OF FLESH UNDER HIS OWN RAZOR SHARP TEETH...
THE AIR IS FILLED WITH GRUNTS AND HISSES OF PAIN AND RAGE. TARN PLANTS A HUGE TALONED FOOT UPON THE CROCODILE'S BACK, THE BETTER TO RIP AT ITS NECK. HE STAMPS DOWN ON THE SCALY BACK AND PULLS UPWARD WITH HIS TEETH, BURIED IN THE MORE VULNERABLE FLESH OF THE CROCODILE'S NECK...
TARN DOES NOT OFTEN ENTER THE WATER. IT IS FOREIGN TO HIM. BUT INSATIABLE HUNGER DRIVES TARN TO MANY THINGS. STILL, THE WATER UNSETTLES HIM. HE REMOVES THE CROCODILE FROM THE LAGOON. SPRAYING DROPLETS SPEW IN ALL DIRECTIONS, AND SALTY-SWEET BLOOD TANTALIZES TARN'S PALATE...
THE BLOOD REMINDS TARN OF HIS HUNGER, AND RENEWS HIS EFFORTS. WITH A WHIPPING SNAP OF HIS MUSCLED NECK HE SLINGS THE CROCODILE TO THE MUDDY GROUND. THERE IS A MUTED, DULL CRACK AND TARN KNOWS HE HAS DONE SOMETHING TO THE CROCODILE. SOON, HE WILL EAT...
THUUD!

TARN DOES NOT CARE IF THE CROCODILE STILL ***LIVES***. AS LONG AS IT DOES NOT MOVE, AND DOES NOT TRY TO ***CLAMP ITS JAWS*** AROUND HIM, HE IS CONTENT. HE TEARS A SECTION OF SUCCULENT ***MEAT*** FROM THE CROCODILE'S NECK WITH HIS SIX-INCH LONG SLAVERING TEETH...

TARN DEVOURS HIS SLAIN FOE HUNGRILY, KNOWING IT IS GOOD TO FILL HIS BELLY, BUT TARN IS ***HUNGRY*** ALMOST ALL THE TIME. EVEN BEFORE HE HAS FINISHED ***FEASTING*** ON THE CARCASS OF THE CROCODILE, HE GAZES AT THE SLUGGISH ***BRONTOSAURUS*** WITH LUSTING EYES...

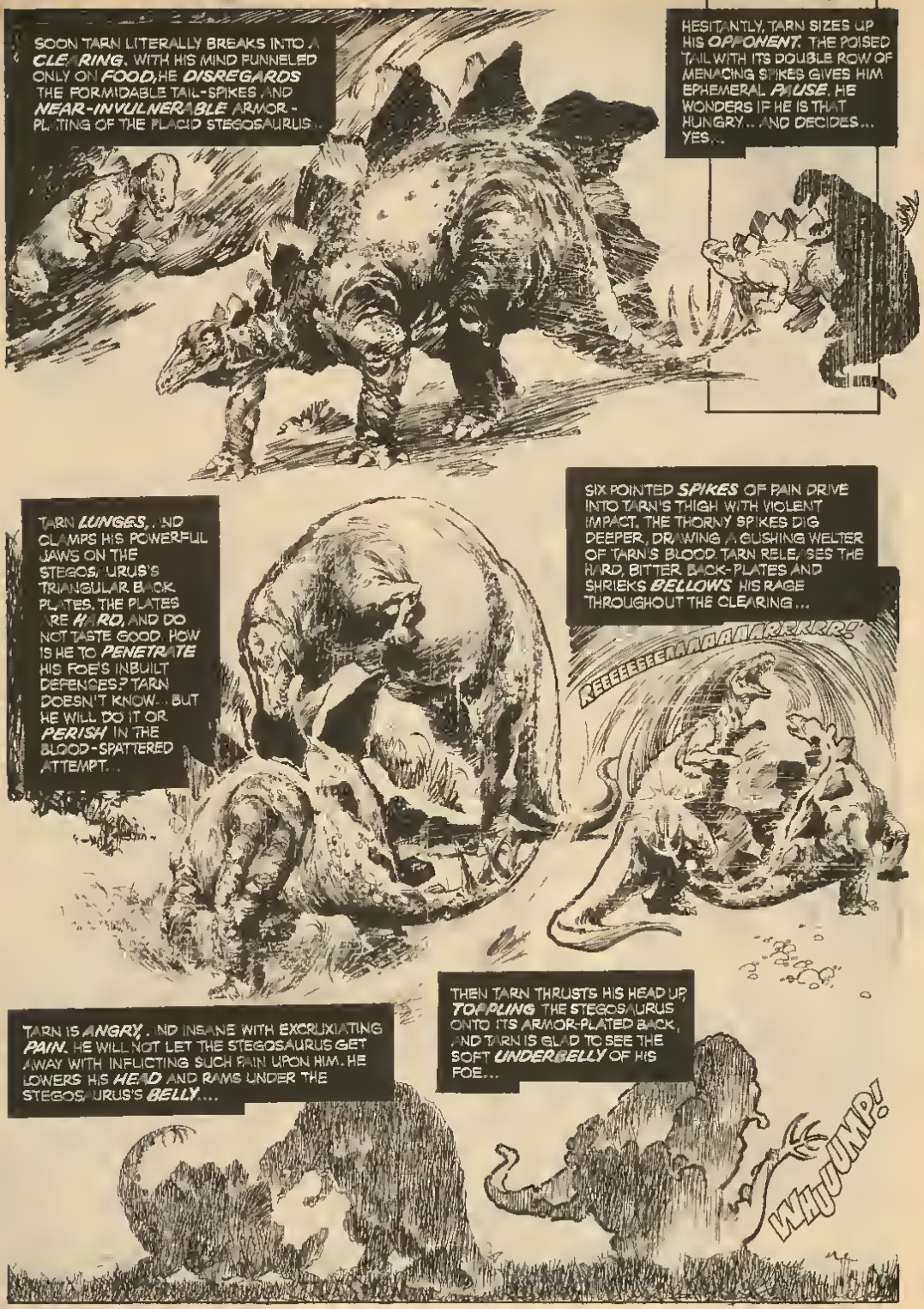
AT THIS PROMISE OF SUCH A ***SUMPTUOUS AND LARGE MEAL***, TARN FORGETS THE CROCODILE... AND RUSHES TOWARD THE ***CARELESS*** BRONTOSAURUS ON GROUND-SHAKING LEGS...

TARN WATCHES THE HALF-SUBMERGED ***BEHEMOTH*** AS IT STEADILY MUNCHES ON BULL RUSHES, CONIFERS, AND SWAMP REEDS. HE CANNOT ***UNDERSTAND*** HOW THE BRONTOSAURUS CAN STAND BEING IN THE AWFUL WATER. HE DOES NOT REALIZE THAT THE ***CREATURE*** NEEDS THE WATER'S BUOYANCY TO ALLOW ITS 30 TON MASS TO STAND AT ALL. BUT HE DOES REALIZE THAT THE ***GIGANTIC REPTILE*** HAS VENTURED ***TOO CLOSE*** TO THE SHORE...

TARN'S FEET ARE ***FAST*** FOR ONE OF HIS IMMENSE SIZE, BUT HIS BRAIN IS SLOW. HE HAS ALREADY ***LEAPED*** FOR THE BRONTOSAURUS BEFORE HE REALIZES THAT HIS PREY HAS DUCKED BACK AND SLIPPED INTO THE SECURITY OF DEEPER WATERS. TARN SPLASHES HEAVILY, AND FLOUNDERS IN THE HORRIBLE WETNESS...

PA-ASSSHHHH!

CONFUSED AND TERRIFIED BY THE *SUFFOCATING LIQUID,* TARN WRENCHES HIS BULK FROM THE LAGOON. HE WILL LET THE BRONTOSAURUS GO THIS TIME. HE WILL RETURN TO THE REST OF HIS KILL...
TARN DOES NOT KNOW THAT SMALLER, *SCAVENGING DINOSAURS* HAVE STOLEN HIS CROCODILE. ALL HE KNOWS IS THAT IT IS *GONE.* HE IS ANGRY. DID HE EAT IT ALL? HE DOES NOT REMEMBER. BUT HE IS STILL HUNGRY, AND THE DAY HAS JUST BEGUN...
TARN LEANS BACK, SUPPORTED BY THE *PROP* OF HIS HUGE TAIL. IN THIS ATTITUDE, HE CAN LIFT HIS HEAD *HIGH* TO SURVEY THE REGION AROUND HIM. TARN IS *FEARED* BY THE OTHER DINOSAURS... THEY HAVE ALL TAKEN TO *HIDING*...
SO HE *LEAVES* THE LAGOON, IN PURSUIT OF *OTHER* GAME. TARN DIPS HIS HEAD TOWARDS THE GROUND AND LIFTS HIS TAIL, HOLDING IT OUT STIFFLY BEHIND HIM.
TARN SHAMBLES THROUGH THE *FOREST,* PAST BARREL-TRUNKS OF SPRUCES, HEMLOCKS, LARCHES, CYPRESSES, CEDARS, FIRS, REDWOODS, AND GINKGOS. A FLITTING *SHADOW* ACROSS THE JELLY-GLOBES OF HIS EYES CAUSES HIM TO LOOK UPWARDS, AND HE WONDERS AT THE DELICACY A GLIDING *PTERODACTYL*...


SOON TARN LITERALLY BREAKS INTO A *CLEARING*. WITH HIS MIND FUNNELED ONLY ON *FOOD*, HE *DISREGARDS* THE FORMIDABLE TAIL-SPIKES AND *NEAR-INVULNERABLE* ARMOR-PLATING OF THE PLACID STEGOSAURUS...
HESITANTLY, TARN SIZES UP HIS *OPPONENT*. THE POISED TAIL WITH ITS DOUBLE ROW OF MENACING SPIKES GIVES HIM EPHEMERAL *PAUSE*. HE WONDERS IF HE IS THAT HUNGRY... AND DECIDES... YES...
TARN *LUNGES*, AND CLAMPS HIS POWERFUL JAWS ON THE STEGOSAURUS'S TRIANGULAR BACK PLATES. THE PLATES ARE *HARD*, AND DO NOT TASTE GOOD. HOW IS HE TO *PENETRATE* HIS FOE'S INBUILT DEFENCES? TARN DOESN'T KNOW... BUT HE WILL DO IT OR *PERISH* IN THE BLOOD-SPATTERED ATTEMPT...
SIX POINTED *SPIKES* OF PAIN DRIVE INTO TARN'S THIGH WITH VIOLENT IMPACT. THE THORNY SPIKES DIG DEEPER, DRAWING A GUSHING WELTER OF TARN'S BLOOD. TARN RELEASES THE HARD, BITTER BACK-PLATES AND SHRIEKS *BELLOWS* HIS RAGE THROUGHOUT THE CLEARING...
REEEEEEEEEAAAAAAARRRRRG!
TARN IS *ANGRY*, AND INSANE WITH EXCRUCIATING *PAIN*. HE WILL NOT LET THE STEGOSAURUS GET AWAY WITH INFLICTING SUCH PAIN UPON HIM. HE LOWERS HIS *HEAD* AND RAMS UNDER THE STEGOSAURUS'S *BELLY*...
THEN TARN THRUSTS HIS HEAD UP, *TOPPLING* THE STEGOSAURUS ONTO ITS ARMOR-PLATED BACK, AND TARN IS GLAD TO SEE THE SOFT *UNDERBELLY* OF HIS FOE...
WHUUMP!

AND ONCE MORE TARN FILLS HIS GAPING MAW WITH THE BLOOD, FLESH, AND GUTS OF ANOTHER VANQUISHED FOE. HE WILL BE CONTENT NOW... UNTIL HE HAS CONSUMED ALL OF HIS MEAL..
TARN DOES NOT UNDERSTAND HOW THE HUGE SILVER BEAST CAN OPEN UP TO DISGORGE THREE OTHER BEASTS. BUT THESE OTHER THREE ARE CLOSER TO TARN'S SIZE. NOW HE KNOWS HE WILL NOT LET THEM TAKE HIS KILL...
TARN IS NOT EASILY DISTRACTED FROM A MEAL, BUT THE HARSH GLINTING OF BLINDING SUNLIGHT UPON A SILVER OBJECT IN THE SKY MAKES HIM PAUSE AND CONSIDER THE DESCENDING THING. HE HAS NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT...
THE SILVER THING GROWS LARGER AND MORE UNFAMILIAR AS IT SETTLES TOWARD THE GROUND. A HIGH-KEENING WHINE EMITS FROM ITS DAZZLING HIDE. TARN IS DISTURBED, BUT HE IS READY TO DEFEND HIS KILL AGAINST ANYTHING...
WHY THE OVERLORD EVEN WANTS TO COLONIZE THIS HOT, MUGGY PLANET, I'LL NEVER KNOW!
TARN DOES NOT LIKE THE SOUNDS THE THREE BEASTS MAKE. THEY MIGHT BE GROWLING AT HIM, CHALLENGING HIM FOR HIS MEAL. TARN WISHES TO SILENCE THE THREE...
OURS IS NOT TO QUESTION, ROGAR. OUR OWN PLANET WILL DIE WITHIN SEVERAL MILLION YEARS. IF OUR RACE IS TO CONTINUE, WE MUST FIND A SUITABLE ALTERNATIVE PLANET... AND ERADICATE ITS NATIVE SPECIES.
I MERELY QUESTION THE CHOICE OF THIS PLANET. IT IS HOT... TOO HOT FOR ME...
WE WILL BECOME ACCUSTOMED TO IT. BUT FIRST WE MUST DETERMINE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF OUR WEAPONS UPON A SAMPLE INHABITANT. IT IS INCONCEIVABLE THAT ANY MIND COULD WITHSTAND A SINGLE BLAST FROM OUR WEAPONS, BUT WE MUST ADHERE TO ORDERS...

TARN FEELS A SOFT TINGLE IN HIS HEAD, AND WONDERS WHAT IT IS. IT DOES NOT PAIN HIM, BUT MERELY ANNOYS HIM...
PERHAPS WE CAN EXTERMINATE THEM WITH BRUTE FORCE. ROGAR, CONFRONT THE CREATURE IN COMBAT!
TARN WATCHES AS ONE OF THE BEASTS STEPS FORWARD. HIS HEAD FEELS NOTHING AT ALL NOW... AND HE IS READY TO DEFEND HIS MEAL...
INCREDIBLE! THE MIOTAINT DISCHARGE DOES NOT AFFECT HIM! SUCH A CREATURE MUST POSSESS VAST MENTAL POWERS... WE WOULD NEVER BE ABLE TO ERADICATE A PLANETFUL OF THEM!
ROGAR DO THIS, ROGAR DO THAT! IF NOT FOR YOUR SENIORITY IN THE FEDERATION, MINDRAGO, IT WOULD BE ME TELLING YOU TO FACE THIS CREATURE IN COMBAT...
TARN HAD NEVER BEEN ATTACKED LIKE THIS BEFORE. HE DOES NOT COMPREHEND THE SUBTLE DEXTERITY OF THE ARMS AND HANDS WHICH ENCIRCLE HIS MASSIVE GIRTH, RENDERING HIM HELPLESS. BUT HE DOES UNDERSTAND THAT THIS WILL BE A FIGHT FINISHED ONLY IN DEATH...
WELL, THE CREATURE GOES DOWN EASILY ENOUGH! PERHAPS THEY ARE PUSHOVERS...
TARN STRUGGLES FRANTICALLY, HIS TAIL FLAILS IN ALL DIRECTIONS... UNTIL FINALLY IT CONNECTS...
STILL, HE'S CERTAINLY STRONG ENOU... UUUUHHHNNN!
WHOCK!
THE BEAST GOES MOMENTARILY LIMP, RELEASING TARN. TARN ROLLS TO HIS FEET, CONFIDENCE RETURNING AS HE SEES THE DAZED CONDITION OF HIS ALIEN OPPONENT...

TARN REELS BACK IN *SHOCKED CONFUSION* AS THE CREATURE SOMEHOW BLUDGEONS HIM... PAIN IN HIS EYES, BUT TARN IS DETERMINED TO *WIN* THIS FIGHT... AND TO RESUME HIS *EATING*...
TARN SEES THE PAIN THING COMING TOWARD HIS HEAD AGAIN. HE DOES NOT WISH TO ENDURE THE SAME PAIN... SO HE *BITES* THE PAIN THING OFF..., AND TASTES *BLOOD*. BUT THE BLOOD TASTES DIFFERENT. TARN DOES NOT CARE... HE IS HUNGRY...
BAK
AAAAAIIIIE
TARN SENSES THE *BATTLE* IS ALMOST FINISHED. HE SENSES THAT HIS ATTACKER IS IN PAIN... AND HE TAKES ADVANTAGE OF IT...
AAAAAAHHHHH!

TARN IS TRIUMPHANT, BUT HE DOES NOT REALIZE HE HAS PREVENTED EARTH FROM BEING SEIZED BY ALIEN INVADERS. HE DOES NOT KNOW THAT HE HAS SAVED THE PLANET... THAT HE HAS STOPPED CREATURES WHO WERE INTENT ON PREVENTING HUMAN LIFE FROM EVER APPEARING ON EARTH. ALL TARN KNOWS IS THAT HE IS TRIUMPHANT... AND HUNGRY...

THE ALIEN BEAST TASTES PECULIAR TO TARN. HE DOES NOT KNOW THAT IT CONTAINS VIRULENT BACTERIA WHICH WILL PROVE LETHAL TO HIM WITHIN THE DAY. IF TARN WERE AWARE OF THIS, PERHAPS HE WOULD REALIZE THE ALIENS WERE REALLY THE ONES TO TRIUMPH... FOR AFTER TARN DIES, SCAVENGERS WILL EAT HIM AND ALSO DIE FROM THE GERMS...

...AND OTHER DINOSAURS WILL EAT THOSE SCAVENGERS, AND ALSO DIE, SPREADING THE GERMS UNTIL ALL DINOSAURS ARE EXTINCT. AND MILLIONS OF EVOLUTIONARY YEARS FROM NOW, THE HUMANS TARN HAS UNWITTINGLY SAVED WILL PONDER THE CAUSE FOR THE MYSTERIOUS MASS DEATH OF THE DINOSAURS...

...AS WILL THEY PONDER THE ORIGIN OF DISEASE AND PLAGUE-CAUSING BACTERIA AND VIRUSES, NEVER REALIZING THAT BEFORE TARN'S ENCOUNTER WITH THE ALIENS, EARTH HAD BEEN A VIRGIN PLANET BEREFT OF DISEASE AND PESTILENCE.

SO HOW DID YOU LIKE MY BITING SATIRE ON THE GODZILLA MOVIES? I'LL BET ROGAR IS ALL TARN UP OVER IT!

BUT TARN DOESN'T CARE ABOUT THIS.. ALL TARN CARES ABOUT IS EATING.

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YOU MUST GUIDE ME *WELL*, MY DOG! THE TRAIL IS COLD AND *TREACHEROUS!* AND UNLIKE YOU, I HAVE *NO EYES* TO LEAD ME. IT IS UP TO *YOU* TO FIND US SHELTER FROM THE ELEMENTS!

IT WASN'T SO VERY LONG AGO THAT I COULD HAVE FOUND MY *OWN* SHELTER! EVEN AS *YOU* ARE NOW MY EYES, MY PET... SO WAS *I* THE *EYES* OF AN *OLD MAN!*

WHEN I HAD MY SIGHT, I, TOO, WAS A *BLIND MAN'S GUIDE!*

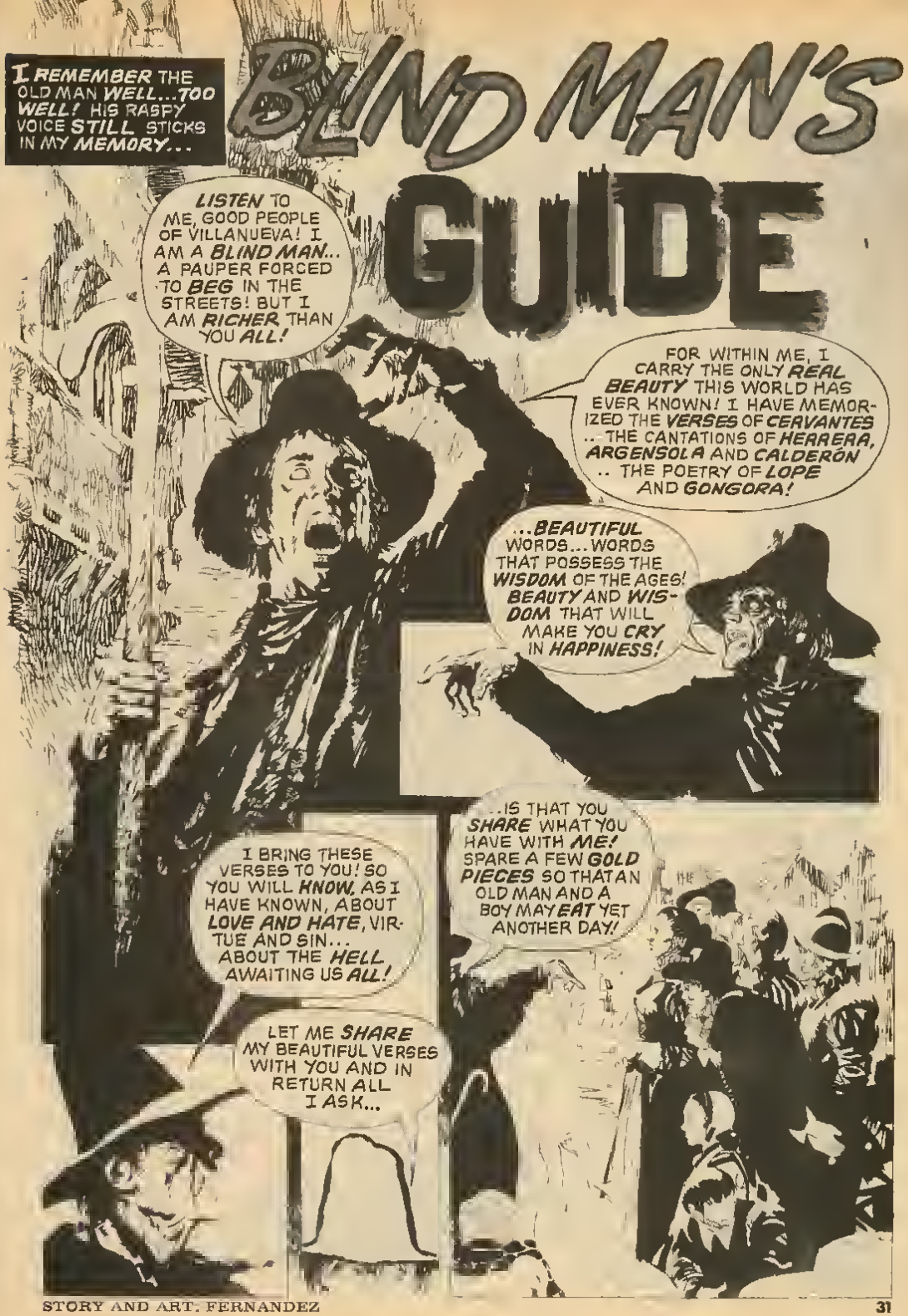
BUT *MY* MASTER WAS *CRUEL...MERCILESS!* HE LOVED *TORTURING* ME!

HE *HATED* THE WORLD AND TOOK HIS HATE OUT ON *ME!*

HE TAUGHT *ME* HOW TO *HATE*, TOO! WITH EVERY *BLOW*... EVERY *KICK* I RECEIVED FROM HIM, I *HATED* HIM MORE AND *MORE!*

THERE WAS *NO LOVE* BETWEEN *HIM* AND *ME*, AS THERE IS BETWEEN *US*, MY PET!

THAT IS WHY I HAD TO *KILL* HIM!



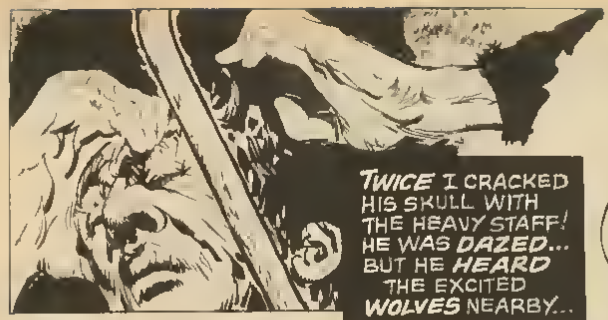
STORY AND ART: FERNANDEZ

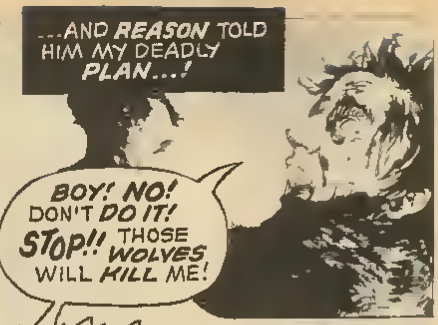
GRACE THE BOY'S PLATE WITH RICHES AND MY WISDOM WILL BE YOURS! IT'S THE BARGAIN OF YOUR LIVES!
WITH YOUR HELP, GOOD PEOPLE, WE WILL BE ABLE TO LIVE ANOTHER DAY...TO CARRY THE WORDS OF THE POETS TO THE NEXT TOWN! GOD WILL BLESS YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!
THE OLD MAN'S SILVER-TONGUED SPIEL GOT THEM EVERY TIME...
CLINK
CLINK
THANK YOU, BROTHERS AND SISTERS! YOU WILL BE ALL THE WISER BECAUSE OF THIS..!
CLINK
CLINK CLINK
HE SURE WASN'T LYING ABOUT THAT.
AND WHEN OUR "ACT" WAS OVER...
WE'VE HAD A LONG AND PROFITABLE DAY, MY FRIEND! IT'S NOT OFTEN ONE FINDS SO MANY GENEROUS SOULS IN ONE VILLAGE!
GENEROUS AND STUPID!

AH, PRECIOUS GOLD! COLD, INDIFFERENT BUT SO SWEET TO THE TOUCH!
LET'S COUNT OUR PROFITS, BOY!
HEY! WHAT THE HELL IS THIS?
I MAY BE BLIND, BOY... BUT I'M NOT AS DUMB AS THOSE MARKS IN THE VILLAGE...
I COUNTED THE SOUND OF FIVE GOLD COINS HITTING THE PLATE! THERE ARE ONLY FOUR HERE!!
YOU ARE A THIEF, BOY!
IS THIS HOW YOU REPAY ME FOR ALL I HAVE DONE FOR YOU...? FOR PICKING YOU OUT OF THE SEWERS, FEEDING YOU, PUTTING CLOTHES ON YOUR BACK...
...EDUCATING YOU!!?
THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO MAKE AN HONEST MAN OF A THIEF LIKE YOU...
...BY BREAKING IN YOUR BACK!
DO YOU HEAR ME, BOY? AH, YOUR FAST BREATHING GIVES YOU AWAY!
I'LL TEACH YOU RESPECT FOR ME AND RESPECT FOR THE WHIP..!
NO! DON'T HIT ME, MASTER, PLEASE!
I'LL RETURN THE COIN! I'LL NEVER STEAL FROM YOU AGAIN!!

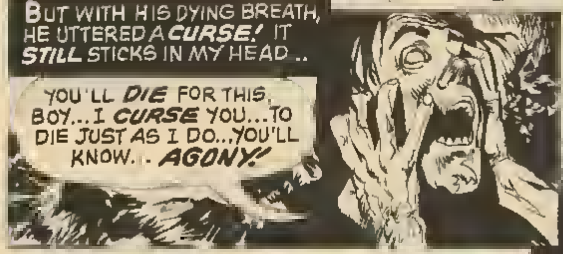
NOOOOOOoo!
DAMNED BRAT!
...YOU'LL LEARN...
...EVEN IF I HAVE TO BEAT HOLY HELL OUT OF YOU!!
NOOo!
NOOo!
NO!
SOB SOB

YOU'LL PAY FOR THIS, OLD MAN! YOU'LL PAY WITH YOUR LIFE... I SWEAR IT!
THOUGH EACH DAY THE OLD MAN DISGUSTED ME MORE, I BIDED MY TIME... WAITED FOR THE PERFECT OPPORTUNITY... TO END HIS MISERABLE LIFE...
THEN ONE DAY, JUST OUTSIDE A SMALL VILLAGE...
WHAT SOLITUDE! THERE'S NO ONE AROUND! THIS WOULD BE THE IDEAL PLACE FOR MY REVENGE!
WAIT! WHAT'S THAT?
WOLF TRACKS! AND THEY'RE FRESH! THE COLD MUST BE MAKING PICKINGS LEAN FOR THE WOLVES IF THEY VENTURE SO NEAR THE VILLAGE!
AND IF THEY'RE AS HUNGRY AS I SUSPECT... JUST THE SMELL OF BLOOD COULD INCITE THEM TO ATTACK!
MY CANE! GIVE IT TO ME, YOU DAMNED BRAT...
...OR YOU'LL REGRET THE DAY YOU WERE BORN!
THERE THEY ARE... WAITING... THEY WON'T ATTACK US UNLESS...
THE OLD MAN HAD NO IDEA THE WOLVES WERE NEAR. IF IT HAD NOT BEEN FOR HIS BLINDNESS AND THE ELEMENT OF SURPRISE, I NEVER WOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO GRAB HIS STAFF...
YOU'VE ALREADY MADE ME REGRET THAT DAY, MASTER...
...TODAY IS THE DAY I REJOICE!
IT IS THE DAY YOU DIE!





BUT IT WAS TOO LATE! NOTHING COULD STOP THE WOLVES! INCITED BY HUNGER, ROUSED BY THE SMELL OF FRESH BLOOD, THE WOLVES LEAPED FOR THE OLD MAN...



IT WAS OVER...

...I WAS FREE FROM MY WICKED MASTER..!

BUT I *STILL* HAD TO ESCAPE THE *WOLVES!* WHEN THEY FINISHED PICKING THE OLD MAN'S BONES CLEAN... I *KNEW* I WOULD BE *NEXT*...

GOTTA RUN... ESCAPE!

HE *CURSED* ME TO DIE JUST AS HE HAS... *TORN TO BLOODY PIECES* TO FEED STARVING ANIMALS! BUT HE WAS *MAD!* I CAN'T LET HIS CURSE *WORRY* ME...

...GOTTA RUN... RUN...

I'LL TELL THE VILLAGERS IT WAS AN *ACCIDENT*...THAT THE WOLVES *ATTACKED US*... BUT I WAS ABLE TO *ESCAPE!*

THEY'LL *BELIEVE* ME!

I WAS *OBSESSED!* I RAN AS FAST AND AS FAR AS I COULD... AND STILL PUSHED *FURTHER!* THE OLD MAN'S LAST WORDS REVERBERATED IN MY MIND...

AND THEN I WAS IN THE TOWN...

HELP! *HELP ME!!* *WOLVES HAVE KILLED MY MASTER*...THE OLD BLIND MAN... *WOLVES!*

IN MY *EXCITEMENT*... EXHAUSTION I DIDN'T SEE THE *CARRIAGE COMING!* I RAN RIGHT IN *FRONT* OF IT .!

MY GOD! HE'S *UNDER* THE WHEELS!

GET HIM OUT!

MY LIFE WAS *SAVED* BY THE VILLAGE PHYSICIANS! *BUT*... AND THERE WAS A *BIG BUT*...

WE CAN DO *NO MORE!*

HE WILL LIVE...

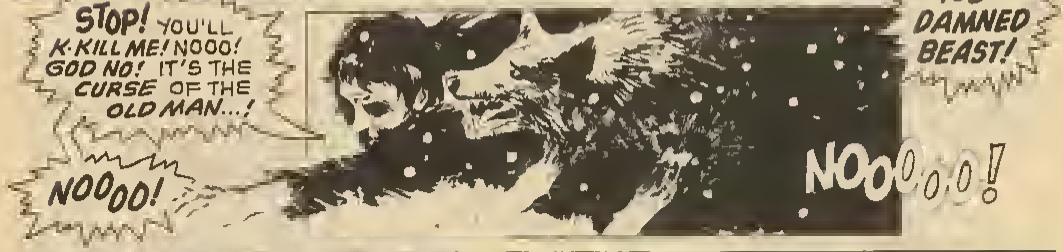
BUT THE BOY WILL BE *BLIND* FOR LIFE!

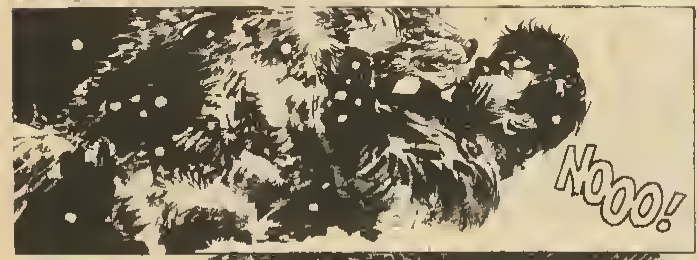
I WAS A *POOR* BLIND MAN'S GUIDE, MY PET! BUT ONLY AS POOR AS MY WORTHLESS *MASTER!*

YOU ARE A MUCH *BETTER* GUIDE... AND A BETTER *FRIEND* TO ME THAN I WAS TO *MY MASTER!*

OOF!

DAMN ROOTS! I'M TRAPPED!





IT'S CALLED *DIVINE* PUNISHMENT... *JUSTICE! IRONY!* THE BLIND BOY COULD NOT SEE THAT HIS "*DOG*" WAS A *WOLF*... TAMED, TRAINED BY THE MAN WHO HAD SOLD HIM TO THE BOY...FOR *ONE GOLD PIECE!*

THE WOLF HAD BEEN A MEMBER OF A PACK THAT HAD *DEVOURED* A *BLIND MAN* AGES AGO... A BLIND MAN *DESERTED* BY HIS GUIDE!

THE KEEN, TANGY TASTE OF THE BOY'S *BLOOD* REVIVED THE *KILLER INSTINCTS* IN THE ANIMAL...

... AND, IN THE END, THE OLD MAN'S CURSE HAD COME *TRUE!*

SIR ROSCOE STRANG REPRESENTED THE MIGHT OF GREAT BRITAIN IN THE NEW WORLD. HIS SON MURDOCK REPRESENTED ALL THAT WAS CRUEL, VICIOUS AND DEPRAVED. TOGETHER THEY STOOD FOR...

THE POWER AND THE GORY!

STORY: W. EATON / ART: AURALEON

THAT'S ALL THAT HAPPENS, WHEN YOU KNOW HE KILLED MY DOG?

YOU HEARD *WHY* HE DID IT NOW BE OFF WITH YOU, BOY.

I'LL GET EVEN WITH HIM SOME DAY... I SWEAR I WILL!

HAVE A CARE I DON'T EXPERIMENT WITH *YOU* NEXT!

LADY PHYLLIS STRANG, LIKE HER HUSBAND, COULD SEE NO WRONG IN HER SON'S PSYCHOTIC BEHAVIOR...

YOU HEARD, MY DEAR?

I LISTENED AT A DOWNSTAIRS WINDOW. MURDOCK, I DO WISH YOU'D STAY AWAY FROM THOSE GUTTER PEOPLE. THEY TWIST AROUND EVERYTHING YOU DO!

I'LL GO WHERE I WANT! I WON'T HAVE THE SWINE THINKING I'M AFRAID OF THEM!

THE GROWING RAGE AND MUTTERED THREATS OF THE COLONISTS DID NOTHING TO CHANGE YOUNG MURDOCK STRANG. HE GREW MORE DEGENERATE EACH DAY...

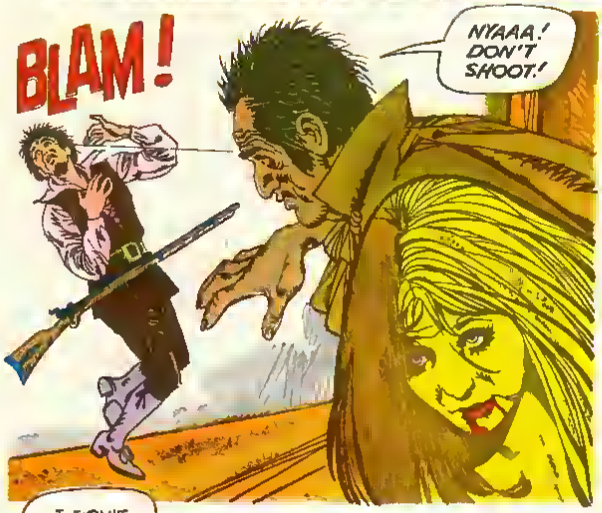
WELL, NOW, I VE NEVER SEEN THAT ONE BEFORE! NOT MUCH OF A FACE, BUT A VERY DESIRABLE BODY!

HOW CARELESS LEAVING A WINDOW OPEN IN ONE ROOM WHILE DRESSING IN ANOTHER!

OR PERHAPS THE WENCH IS HOPING TO BE SEEN!

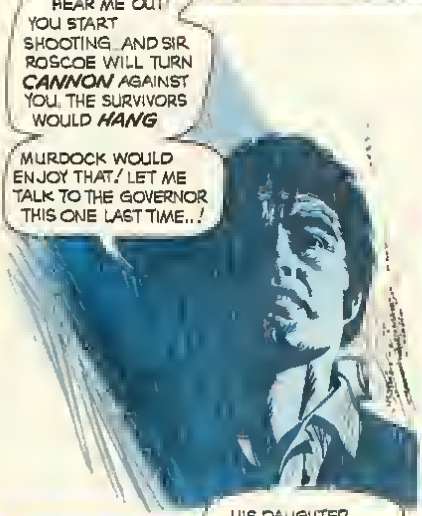
STOP! LET GO OF ME!

BUT I GOT YOUR INVITATION..!

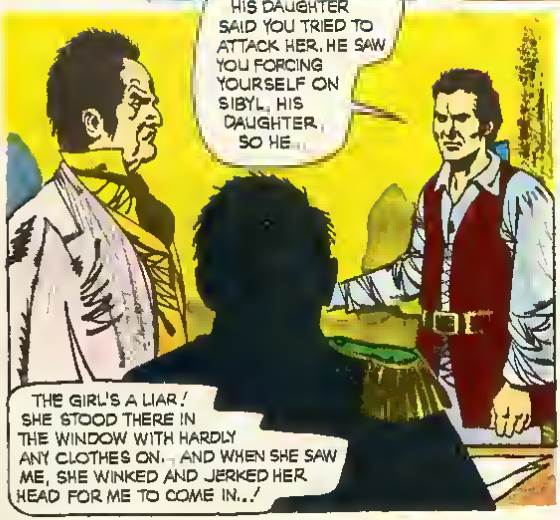


THE PEOPLE'S FURY REACHED FEVER PITCH. MEN ARMED THEMSELVES AND STARTED TO MARCH ON THE GOVERNOR'S PALACE, BUT CONSTABLE GEORGE FRANKLIN INTERCEPTED THEM...

SIR ROSCOE WON'T LET YOU WITHIN A HUNDRED FEET OF MURDOCK.!
HIS REDCOATS WOULD KILL THE LOT OF YOU.
GEORGE WE CAN'T LET STRANG GET AWAY WITH MURDERING TAD WILLIS!


HEAR ME OUT! YOU START SHOOTING...AND SIR ROSCOE WILL TURN CANNON AGAINST YOU. THE SURVIVORS WOULD HANG
MURDOCK WOULD ENJOY THAT! LET ME TALK TO THE GOVERNOR THIS ONE LAST TIME..!

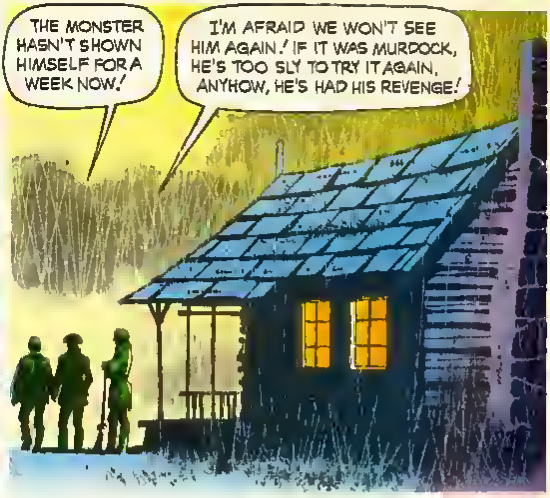
THEY KNEW THE CONSTABLE WAS RIGHT. RELUCTANTLY THEY STARTED BACK TO THEIR HOMES, WHILE FRANKLIN WENT AT ONCE TO THE GOVERNOR'S MANSION...
MY SON NEVER FIRED THE SHOT THAT KILLED WILLIS--IT WAS ONE OF MY TROOPS...
IT WAS THAT OLD FOOL'S LIFE OR MINE!


HIS DAUGHTER SAID YOU TRIED TO ATTACK HER. HE SAW YOU FORCING YOURSELF ON SIBYL, HIS DAUGHTER, SO HE...
THE GIRL'S A LIAR! SHE STOOD THERE IN THE WINDOW WITH HARDLY ANY CLOTHES ON...AND WHEN SHE SAW ME, SHE WINKED AND JERKED HER HEAD FOR ME TO COME IN..!

YOUR EXCELLENCY, SIBYL WILLIS HAS BEEN BLIND SINCE BIRTH!
I MUST TELL YOU, SIR, THE PEOPLE ARE IN A BLACK MOOD. I STOPPED THEM FROM COMING HERE...ARMED!

I TOLD THEM YOU'D DO SOMETHING TO STOP MURDOCK. THEY WON'T STAND FOR ANY MORE...
HE'S THREATENING YOU, FATHER! HE'S LIKE THE REST OF THOSE WEAK-MINDED PEASANTS!
VERY WELL. NEXT TIME ANY MALEFACTOR COMMITS SOME OFFENSE, HE'LL BE PUNISHED...
BUT I ALONE WILL DECIDE WHAT THAT PUNISHMENT WILL BE!
THERE WAS MUCH GROWLING AND GRUMBLING WHEN FRANKLIN REPORTED THE GOVERNOR'S PROMISE...
ALL RIGHT, CONSTABLE, WE'LL SEE. BUT ONE MORE FOUL ACT BY MURDOCK STRANG THAT GOES UNPUNISHED, WE'LL STORM THE PALACE!
SURE HE'LL DECIDE ON THE PUNISHMENT. IF ONE OF US DOES WRONG, IT'LL MEAN THE GALLOWS AND HE'LL SLAP HIS SON'S HAND FOR THE SAME OFFENSE!
I THINK NOT. I WARNED HIM OF YOUR MOOD!
BUT MURDOCK, SEETHING WITH HATRED FOR THE COLONISTS, WOULD NOT BE STOPPED. HE CARRIED ON IN A FRIGHTFUL DISGUISE...
HE NEVER STRUCK TWO NIGHTS IN A ROW OR NEAR THE SAME PLACE...
YAHAHAHAHA!
AGHHHH!
UHRRR! UHRRR!
HELP... SOMEBODY HELP ME... FOR GOD'S SAKE!
N-NO... PLEASE DON'T... DON'T...!

THE "MONSTER'S" CLUBBING VICTIM LIVED LONG ENOUGH TO DESCRIBE HIS ATTACKER...

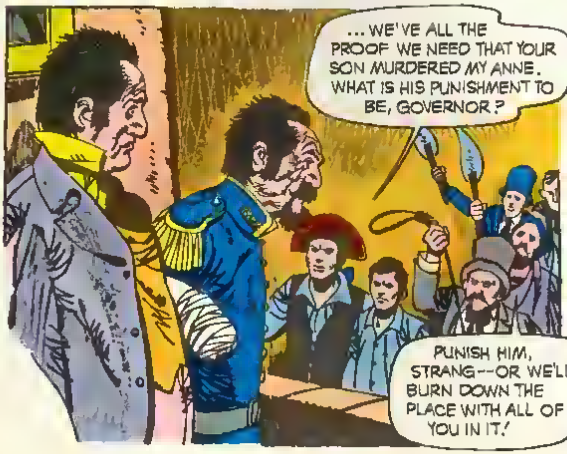


MURDOCK STRANG LET ANOTHER WEEK PASS BEFORE HE MADE HIS NEXT MOVE. ANNE FRANKLIN, THE CONSTABLE'S BEAUTIFUL DAUGHTER, VISITED WITH A FRIEND LATE ONE AFTERNOON...

AS ANNE FOLLOWED A PATH NEAR A WOOD...

CONSTABLE GEORGE FRANKLIN FELT A DEEP COLD DREAD OVER THE DISAPPEARANCE OF HIS DAUGHTER--A FEAR SHARED BY THOSE WHO HELPED HIM SEARCH FOR HER. A FEAR CONFIRMED BY THE DISCOVERY OF TWO CLUES...

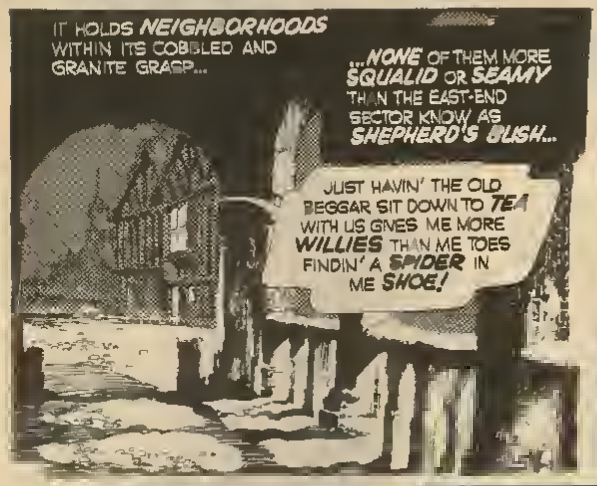
THAT NIGHT CONSTABLE FRANKLIN LED THE LYNCH-HUNGRY MOB THAT MARCHED ON THE GOVERNOR'S PALACE ..

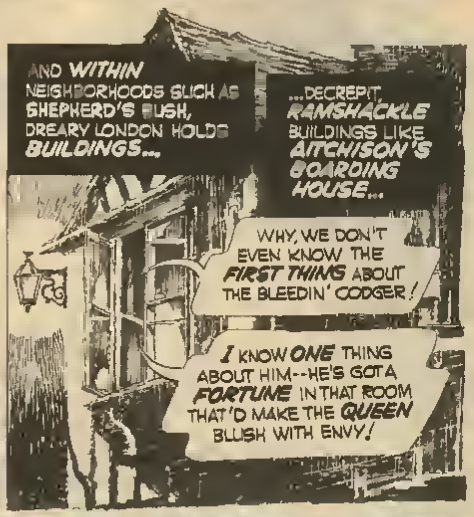


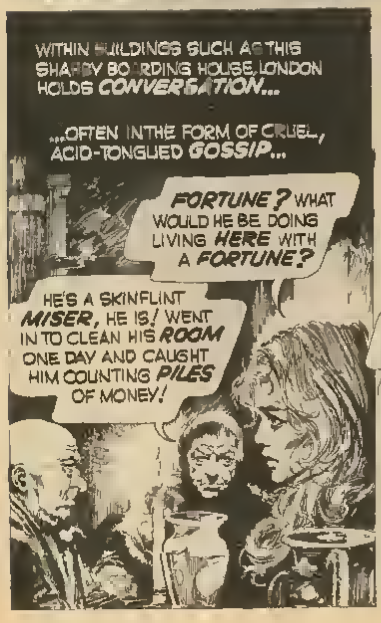
YOU WANT MY SON PUNISHED? VERY WELL. YOU WILL PUT HIM IN STOCKS FOR EIGHT HOURS. NO MORE!
YOU CALL THAT PUNISHMENT FOR WHAT HE DID? MAKE HIM TELL WHAT HE DID WITH ANNE FRANKLIN'S BODY!
CONSTABLE, SIR--I HAVE AN IDEA..!
THE CONSTABLE LISTENED TO ALF ROLLINS. THEN HE SMILED SORROWFULLY...
SHE WAS MY DAUGHTER. I ..I LOVED HER DEARLY BUT WE'LL CARRY OUT THE PUNISHMENT SIR ROSCOE HAS ORDERED.
SIR ROSCOE GLOATED OVER HIS CLEVERNESS: HE HAD GIVEN THE COLONISTS THE JUSTICE THEY DEMANDED, WHILE PROTECTING HIS SON / BUT LATER...
WELL... WHERE IS MY SON? REMEMBER EIGHT HOURS AT MOST!
MURDOCK IN IN THE STOCK, AS YOU ORDERED. OVER THERE. YOU DIDN'T SAY WHERE THE STOCK WAS TO BE, SIR...
MY MURDOCK... AT THE BOTTOM OF THE POND? THAT'S COLDBLOODED MURDER! BRING HIM UP!
DO AS THE GOVERNOR ORDERS! HE'S PARDONING HIS SON!
HE'S JUST BEEN DOWN THERE A HALF HOUR. YOUR EXCELLENCY NO HARM WILL COME TO HIM--AS LONG AS HE DOESN'T TRY TO BREATHE!
HURRY! GET HIM OUT OF THERE! FASTER! FASTER!
MUR... DOCK! GAAAGH...
M-MY GOD... THAT'S WHERE HE HID MY ANNE'S BODY!!
A LITTLE ADVICE FROM VAMPI, GRUE-GOBBLERS! LITTLE GOONS ANY TIME YOU THINK OF INVESTING IN STOCKS AND PONDS, JUST REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED TO MURDOCK AND ANNE!

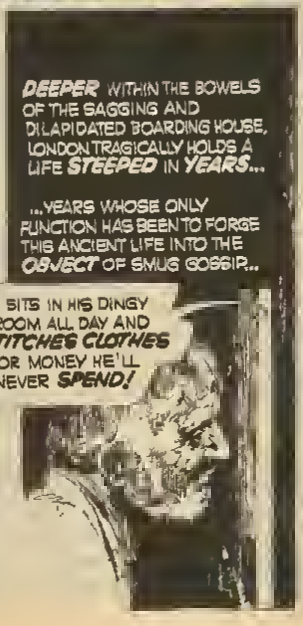
PROLOGUE

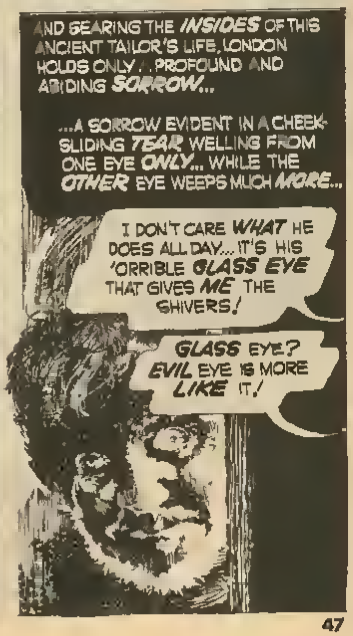
THE SOOT-GRIMY CITY OF LONDON IN THE EARLY 1900S HOLDS MANY THINGS FOR MANY PEOPLE...
... MURDER IS ONE OF THEM...
I TELL YOU, THE SIGHT OF 'IM IS 'ORRIBLE -- JUST 'ORRIBLE!


IT HOLDS NEIGHBORHOODS WITHIN ITS COBBLED AND GRANITE GRASP...
...NONE OF THEM MORE SQUALID OR SEAMY THAN THE EAST-END SECTOR KNOW AS SHEPHERD'S BUSH...
JUST HAVIN' THE OLD BEGGAR SIT DOWN TO TEA WITH US GIVES ME MORE WILLIES THAN ME TOES FINDIN' A SPIDER IN ME SHOE!


AND WITHIN NEIGHBORHOODS SUCH AS SHEPHERD'S BUSH, DREARY LONDON HOLDS BUILDINGS...
...DECREPIT, RAMSHACKLE BUILDINGS LIKE AITCHISON'S BOARDING HOUSE...
WHY, WE DON'T EVEN KNOW THE FIRST THING ABOUT THE BLEEDIN' CODGER!
I KNOW ONE THING ABOUT HIM--HE'S GOT A FORTUNE IN THAT ROOM THAT'D MAKE THE QUEEN BLUSH WITH ENVY!


WITHIN BUILDINGS SUCH AS THIS SHABBY BOARDING HOUSE, LONDON HOLDS CONVERSATION...
...OFTEN IN THE FORM OF CRUEL-, ACID-TONGUED GOSSIP...
FORTUNE? WHAT WOULD HE BE DOING LIVING HERE WITH A FORTUNE?
HE'S A SKINFLINT MISER, HE IS! WENT IN TO CLEAN HIS ROOM ONE DAY AND CAUGHT HIM COUNTING PILES OF MONEY!

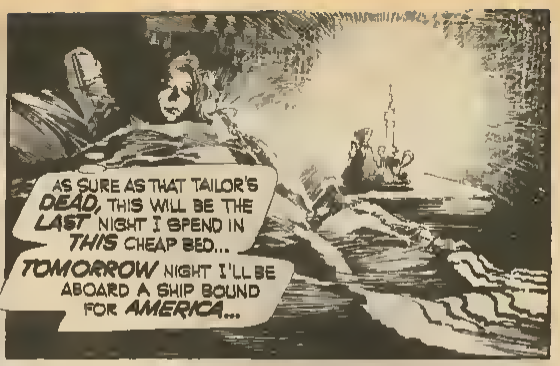

DEEPER WITHIN THE BOWELS OF THE SAGGING AND DILAPIDATED BOARDING HOUSE, LONDON TRAGICALLY HOLDS A LIFE STEEPED IN YEARS...
...YEARS WHOSE ONLY FUNCTION HAS BEEN TO FORGE THIS ANCIENT LIFE INTO THE OBJECT OF SMUG GOSSIP...
SITS IN HIS DINGY ROOM ALL DAY AND STITCHES CLOTHES FOR MONEY HE'LL NEVER SPEND!

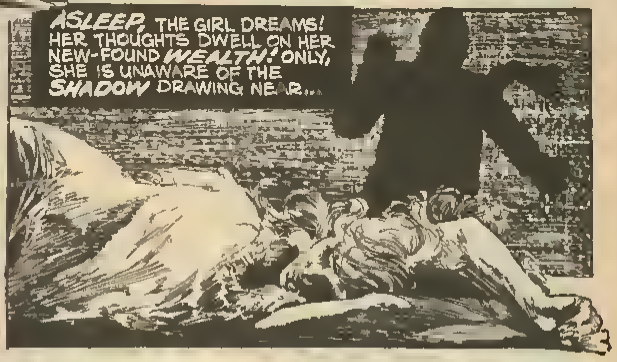

AND GEARING THE INSIDES OF THIS ANCIENT TAILOR'S LIFE, LONDON HOLDS ONLY...PROFOUND AND ABIDING SORROW...
...A SORROW EVIDENT IN A CHEEK-SLIDING TEAR WELLING FROM ONE EYE ONLY... WHILE THE OTHER EYE WEEPS MUCH MORE...
I DON'T CARE WHAT HE DOES ALL DAY... IT'S HIS 'ORRIBLE GLASS EYE THAT GIVES ME THE SHIVERS!
GLASS EYE? EVIL EYE IS MORE LIKE IT!

EYE DON'T WANT TO DIE!

STORY: DOUG MOENCH / ART: RAMON TORRENTS

THIS BAG OF MONEY CERTAINLY MAKES IT WORTH IT...
THAT AND THE FACT THAT I'LL NEVER HAVE TO LOOK AT HIS FILTHY EVIL EYE AGAIN!


AS SURE AS THAT TAILOR'S DEAD, THIS WILL BE THE LAST NIGHT I SPEND IN THIS CHEAP BED...
TOMORROW NIGHT I'LL BE ABOARD A SHIP BOUND FOR AMERICA...


ASLEEP, THE GIRL DREAMS! HER THOUGHTS DWELL ON HER NEW-FOUND WEALTH! ONLY, SHE IS UNAWARE OF THE SHADOW DRAWING NEAR...

IT DOES SOMETHING!

THEN...SO SWIFTLY AS TO DEFY ITS FORMER PRESENCE, IT IS GONE...
NOBODY WILL GO NEAR THE OLD TAILOR'S ROOM FOR DAYS...
...LONG AFTER I'VE USED HIS MONEY-BAG TO BOOK PASSAGE TO THE FABLED GREENER PASTURES.
DANCE-HALLS AND FANCY MANSIONS FROM NOW ON...
...AND NO MORE GLASS EYES!
THOCK
WHAT WAS THAT--?
NO--!

FEAR BEGINS *BRIGHT* AND *GLISTENING*, A FEAR THE GIRL DOES NOT *BELIEVE* BUT CANNOT *REFUSE*...

GOT TO GET OUT OF THIS CURSED *HOUSE*... GET *AWAY*...

HURRIEDLY, SHE DESCENDS THREE STEPS...

...INTO *HEIGHTENED* FEAR...

THOCK CHWOCK TOCK

NO IT CAN'T BE...

...FOLLOWING ME! IT'S *FOLLOWING* ME...!

THE ABSURDITY OF THE SITUATION *BRAKES* HER FRANTIC DASH FROM THE BOARDING HOUSE... SHE CONSIDERS THE *IMPOSSIBILITY* OF IT ALL... AND LOOKS GROUNDWARD TO *CONFIRM* THAT IMPOSSIBILITY...

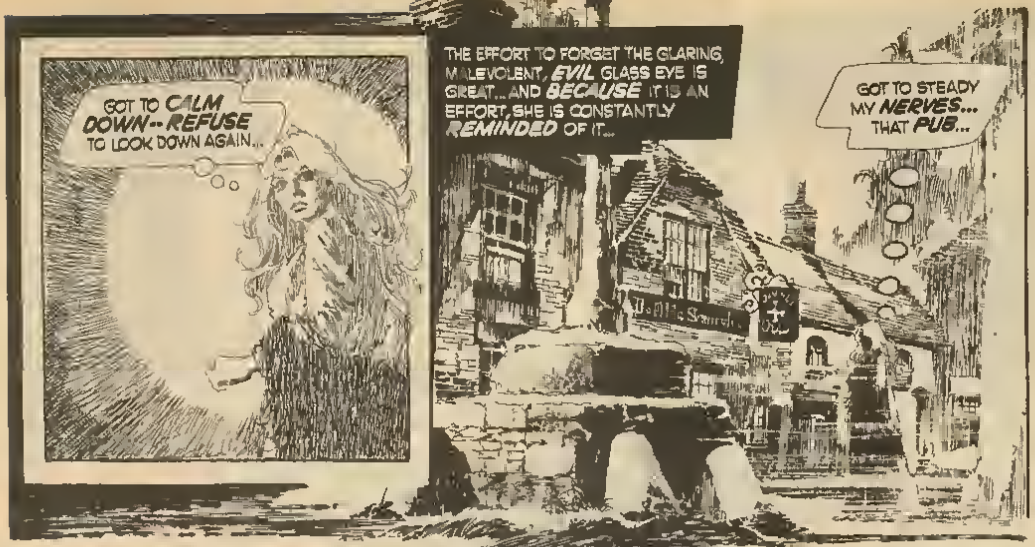
SHE DOES NOT *LIKE* WHAT SHE SEES...

AGAIN! IT'S STILL *THERE! FOLLOWING* ME... *STARING* AT ME ... *ACCUSING* ME!

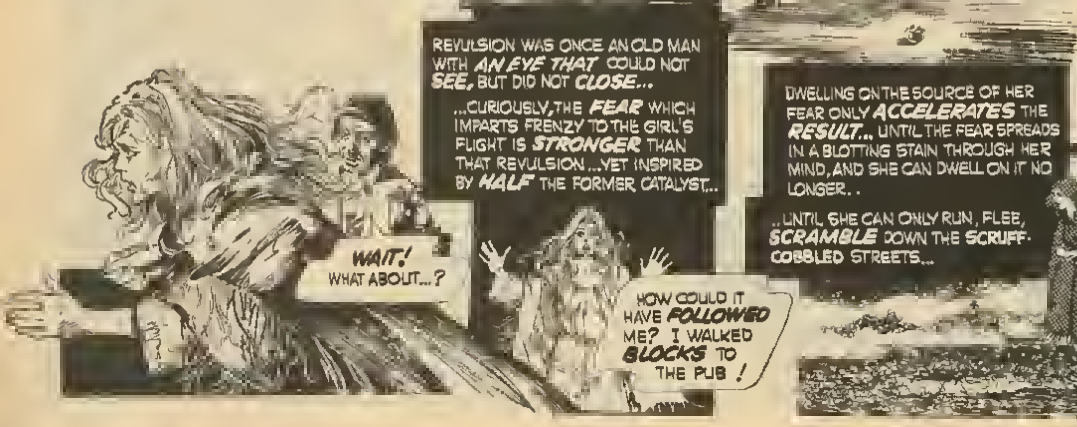
SHE *BOLTS*, THE MADNESS OF *TERROR* COLORING HER MIND IN VIVID HUES OF *PANIC*...

CAN'T BE REAL! MY IMAGINATION... *GUILT*...

AND JUST AS ABRUPTLY SHE *HALTS*... AND EXCHANGES HER PANIC FOR PROBING *RATIONALIZATION*...


GOT TO CALM DOWN-- REFUSE TO LOOK DOWN AGAIN...
THE EFFORT TO FORGET THE GLARING, MALEVOLENT, EVIL GLASS EYE IS GREAT...AND BECAUSE IT IS AN EFFORT, SHE IS CONSTANTLY REMINDED OF IT...
GOT TO STEADY MY NERVES... THAT PUB...

A PINT OF BITTER, PLEASE.
BUT MADAM, IT'S HIGHLY UNUSUAL FOR A WOMAN TO...
I SAID A PINT OF BITTER AND QUICKLY, MAN!
SHE SETTLES HERSELF AT THE OAKEN TABLE, RELAXING QUIVERING LEGS...
...LEGS WHICH INVOLUNTARILY STIFFEN AS HER EYES CHANCE TO GAZE UPON THE PUB'S FLOOR...
NO...! OH MY GOD ...NO!

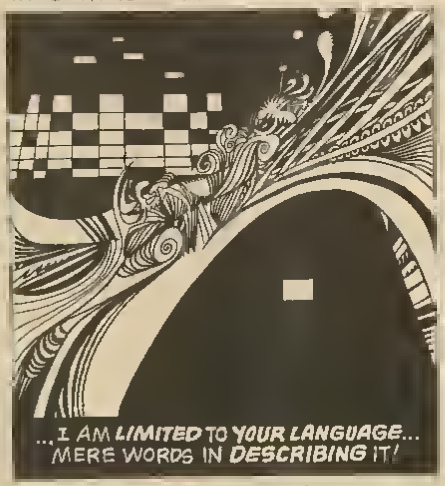

REVULSION WAS ONCE AN OLD MAN WITH AN EYE THAT COULD NOT SEE, BUT DID NOT CLOSE...
...CURIOUSLY, THE FEAR WHICH IMPARTS FRENZY TO THE GIRL'S FLIGHT IS STRONGER THAN THAT REVULSION...YET INSPIRED BY HALF THE FORMER CATALYST...
DWELLING ON THE SOURCE OF HER FEAR ONLY ACCELERATES THE RESULT... UNTIL THE FEAR SPREADS IN A BLOTTING STAIN THROUGH HER MIND, AND SHE CAN DWELL ON IT NO LONGER..
..UNTIL SHE CAN ONLY RUN, FLEE, SCRAMBLE DOWN THE SCRUFF-COBBLED STREETS...
WAIT! WHAT ABOUT...?
HOW COULD IT HAVE FOLLOWED ME? I WALKED BLOCKS TO THE PUB!

HER BREATH IS STOLEN FROM THE WIND IN RAGGED, WHEEZING GASPS WHILE HER MIND SHIMMERS WITH KALEIDOSCOPIC FIELDS OF EYES, STARING, GLARING EYES...
...ALL OF THEM, GLEAMING, WET, LARGE AND SINISTERLY KNOWING, STARING AND GLARING AT HER, LEERING...
HER LEGS PUMP THROUGH AIR SEEMINGLY CONGEALED TO THE CONSISTENCY OF MUD...
SHE SEES EYES WHICH SEE HER AND BEYOND INTO THE HIDDEN DEPTHS OF HER VILE DEED... AND THEY KNOW...
...AND THEY ACCUSE...
SHE RUNS UNTIL SHE CAN RUN NO MORE AND STILL SHE RUNS, URGING MUSCLES WHICH DO NOT RESPOND, FORCING THEM TO RUN IF ONLY IN HER MIND...
HER CHEST THUNDERS PAIN AND SHE KNOWS IT IS HER HEART AS SHE CRUMPLES TO THE HARSH COBBLES, SHREDDING AND BRUISING FORGOTTEN FLESH...
HER EYES DIM AND THROB WITH EACH SPASMODIC FLUTTER OF HER PROTESTING HEART...
...BUT NEVERTHELESS THEY SEE... THEY SEE A GLASS, IRIS-PAINTED SPHERE WHICH HAS SEEN MORE THAN HER...
AND HER HEART PROTESTS... NO MORE.
HER EYES NO LONGER SEE... HER LEGS NO LONGER RUN... AND HER MIND NO LONGER SHIMMERS WITH THE BRIGHT HUM OF TERROR...
HER EYES NO LONGER SEE THE MALEVOLENTLY ACCUSING GLASS EYE... OR THE THREAD TIED AROUND IT...
...THREAD WHICH LEADS TO THE HEM OF HER DRESS... AND IS STITCHED THERETO WITH THE ELABORATE EMBROIDERY OF A MASTER TAILOR.
NO... NO... NOOOOO!
END

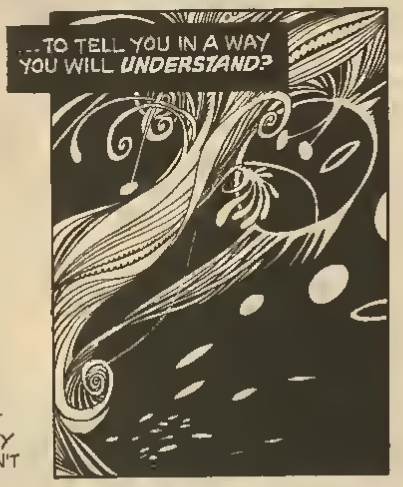
PROLOGUE

HERE I HAVE DISCOVERED NEW SENSATIONS...NEW HORIZONS...NEW SENSES! AS A MAN, I WAS LIMITED! MY WORLD INCLUDED ONLY THOSE THINGS I COULD TOUCH, SEE, SMELL, HEAR OR TASTE! I WAS IMPRISONED IN A WORLD CONFINED BY MY OWN GOD-GIVEN SENSES! HERE... NOW... I HAVE NO LIMITATIONS! MY WORLD IS ENDLESS...IT IS TIMELESS...IT IS WITHOUT RESTRICTIONS...

YET IN A WAY, I AM STILL LIMITED! FOR EVEN THOUGH I HAVE EXPANDED MY WORLD... EXPANDED MY KNOWLEDGE...EVEN THOUGH THE SECRETS OF THE UNIVERSE ARE MINE...



HOW CAN LANGUAGE...WORDS CREATED BY MERE MEN...MEN WHO HAVE NEVER VENTURED BEYOND THEIR FIVE SENSES... DESCRIBE WHAT IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR MEN TO EXPERIENCE? WHAT WORDS CAN I USE TO TELL YOU OF MY WORLD...



I WANT TO SHARE MY HEAVEN WITH YOU! BUT IT IS LIKE A MUTE TRYING TO DESCRIBE THE BEAUTY OF A SUNSET TO A BLIND MAN! AND YET...IT WASN'T SO VERY LONG AGO THAT I WAS A BLIND MAN! JUST AS YOU ARE NOW LIMITED TO YOUR WORLD OF DARKNESS AND IGNORANCE...SO WAS I!

MY WORLD *THEN* WAS THE SMALL FISHING VILLAGE OF *FORNELLS* ON THE ISLAND OF *MENORCA!* I HAD BEEN PLACED ON THIS TINY SECTION OF THE WORLD BY THE *ACCIDENT* OF BIRTH...!

THIS WAS MY *HEAVEN* THEN! A HEAVEN I SHARED WITH FRIENDS AND LOVED ONES! A HEAVEN I KNEW *WELL*... AND WISHED *NEVER* TO *LEAVE*...!

I HAD A *NAME* BACK THEN! I WAS KNOWN SIMPLY AS *THOMAS THE FISHERMAN!* I KNEW *LITTLE* OF ANYTHING BUT *THE SEA!*

THE *SEA* IS HOW I EARNED MY LIVING!

LIFE WAS *GOOD!* LIFE WAS *SIMPLE!*

I WAS *IGNORANT* OF THE COMPLEXITIES OF THE WORLD... BUT I WAS *HAPPY THEN!* EVEN AS I AM *NOW!*

IN SHORT, I WAS A *SIMPLE* MAN... HAPPILY WALLOWING IN MY NAIVETE!

I WOULD HAVE LIVED MY LIFE AS *MY FATHER* HAD LIVED *HIS*... AS *HIS FATHER* BEFORE HIM... AS A MAN OF THE *SEA!*

I WOULD HAVE DIED QUIETLY IN MY BED... AND MY SWEET WIFE WOULD HAVE LAID MY BODY TO REST IN THE GROUNDS BESIDE THE CHAPEL...

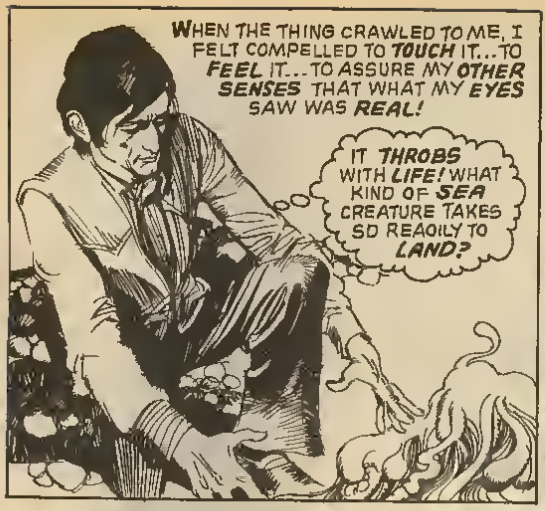
...*WOULD HAVE*...

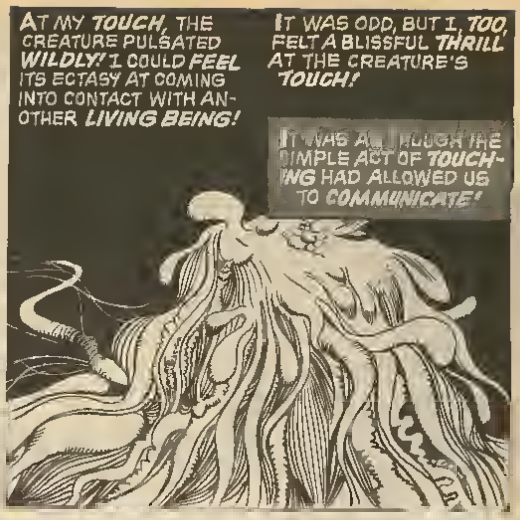
...HAD IT NOT BEEN FOR THE DAY I SPOTTED THE *CREATURE LYING* ON THE *BEACH!*

THAT IS THE DAY MY WORLD *CHANGED*...

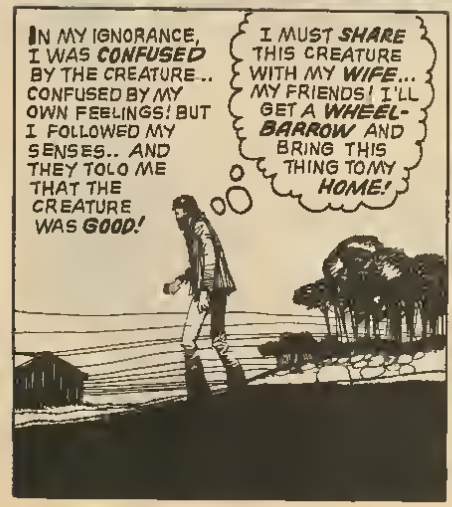
MADRE MIOS! WHAT MANNER OF *MONSTROSITY* IS THIS? I HAVE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING *LIKE IT!*

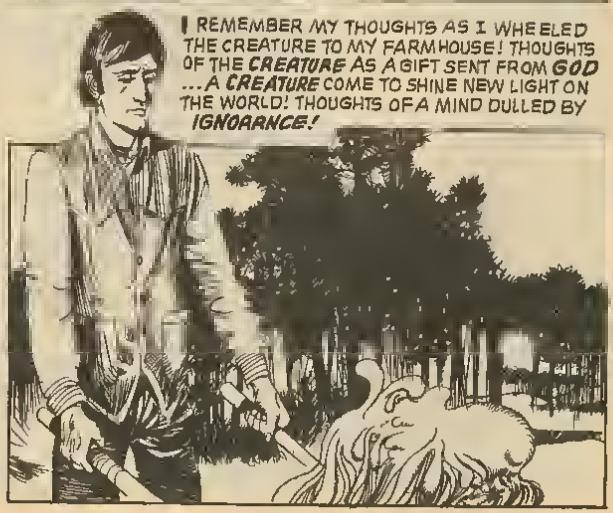
STORY AND ART: JOSE BEA


WHEN THE THING CRAWLED TO ME, I FELT COMPELLED TO TOUCH IT...TO FEEL IT...TO ASSURE MY OTHER SENSES THAT WHAT MY EYES SAW WAS REAL!
IT THROBS WITH LIFE! WHAT KIND OF SEA CREATURE TAKES SO READILY TO LAND?


AT MY TOUCH, THE CREATURE PULSATED WILDLY! I COULD FEEL ITS ECTASY AT COMING INTO CONTACT WITH ANOTHER LIVING BEING!
IT WAS ODD, BUT I, TOO, FELT A BLISSFUL THRILL AT THE CREATURE'S TOUCH!
IT WAS ALL THROUGH THE SIMPLE ACT OF TOUCHING HAD ALLOWED US TO COMMUNICATE!

I DO NOT UNDERSTAND MANY THINGS, CREATURE! BUT I UNDERSTAND PLEASURE AND HAPPINESS WHEN I SEE IT!
THE MERE TOUCH OF YOU HAS GIVEN ME A PLEASURE I HAVE NOT FELT SINCE I FIRST LAY WITH MY WIFE!
AND YOU TOO APPEAR HAPPY AT MY TOUCH!


IN MY IGNORANCE, I WAS CONFUSED BY THE CREATURE.. CONFUSED BY MY OWN FEELINGS! BUT I FOLLOWED MY SENSES.. AND THEY TOLD ME THAT THE CREATURE WAS GOOD!
I MUST SHARE THIS CREATURE WITH MY WIFE... MY FRIENDS! I'LL GET A WHEEL-BARROW AND BRING THIS THING TO MY HOME!


I REMEMBER MY THOUGHTS AS I WHEELED THE CREATURE TO MY FARMHOUSE! THOUGHTS OF THE CREATURE AS A GIFT SENT FROM GOD ...A CREATURE COME TO SHINE NEW LIGHT ON THE WORLD! THOUGHTS OF A MIND DULLED BY IGNORANCE!

EVEN WHEN MY MIND *SHOULD* HAVE BEEN WORKING FAST AND FURIOUSLY FROM THE EXCITEMENT OF FINDING SUCH A GLORIOUS CREATURE... IT WAS *INCAPABLE!*

I DID *NOT QUESTION...!*

...DID *NOT REASON...*

... I SIMPLY WHEELED THE CREATURE TO MY HOME IN *DULLED EXCITEMENT!*

GENTLY I LAID THE *PEANUT BUTTER MONSTER* ONTO MY TABLE! AND AGAIN, THE CREATURE'S *TOUCH* BROUGHT *ECTASY* TO MY BODY...

AS I SAT WAITING FOR MY WIFE TO RETURN FROM HER CHORES IN THE VILLAGE, I REMEMBER *THINKING*... POSSIBLY FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE, *CONSTRUCTIVELY!*

IF THE CREATURE IS TRULY A GIFT FROM *HEAVEN*... AS IT *MUST* BE. . THEN IT MUST HAVE *REASON*...

IT *MUST* BE ABLE TO *THINK*... TO *COMMUNICATE.* SO WHY, THEN, DOES IT LAY THERE IN *SILENCE?*

MY BOWELS NEARLY RELEASED THEMSELVES ON THE SPOT, WHEN A *SOUND CAME FROM THE CREATURE*...

I *HAVE* BEEN *COMMUNICATING* WITH YOU, THOMAS AND YOU WITH *ME!*

SURELY I THOUGHT ANY *INTELLIGENT* CREATURE WOULD UNDERSTAND THE MEANING OF COMMUNICATION BY *TOUCH!*

WITH *TOUCH* ALONE WE HAVE ALREADY ESTABLISHED A *BOND* BETWEEN US.

NEEDLESS TO SAY, I WAS AMAZED...

NOT ONLY THAT THE CREATURE WAS SPEAKING...

...BUT BY WHAT WAS SPOKEN...

TRULY THE SLIME MONSTER WAS MORE INTELLIGENT THAN I WOULD HAVE DARED GUESS...

I...I HAVE SO MANY QUESTIONS...

AS DO WE ALL, THOMAS! IF I WERE TO EXPLAIN EVERYTHING, YOU WOULD UNDERSTAND LITTLE MORE OF ME THAN YOU KNOW NOW!

SUFFICE IT TO SAY, THOMAS, THAT I AM A CREATURE OF ENERGY!

I AM THE BEING WHO CREATED THE LAND YOU WALK UPON.. THE SEAS YOU FISH FROM ...THE SUN... THE STARS...

...ALL FORMS OF LIFE!

IT WAS I WHO BROUGHT THE WORLD INTO BEING... I WHO PEOPLED IT WITH INTELLIGENT CREATURES TO WHOM I HAVE GIVEN THE GIFT OF REASON.

I HAVE BEEN CALLED UPON, PRAYED TO, AND MOCKED!

YOUR PEOPLE CALL ME THEIR GOD!

WHEN IN TRUTH, I AM A CREATURE JUST LIKE YOU, THOMAS!

A CREATURE EONS AND EONS OLD .. A CREATURE WHO HAS TRIED TO PUT BEAUTY INTO A DARK AND COLD UNIVERSE!

BUT MY TIME IS ALMOST UP, THOMAS!

NOTHING IN THIS UNIVERSE IS IMMORTAL, THOMAS... NOT EVEN YOUR GOD!

ONLY THE LENGTH OF TIME WE HAVE VARIES!

IS THERE ANYTHING I CAN DO FOR YOU?

AS EVERYTHING MUST I WILL SOON COME TO AN END!

I WILL SOON DIE!

NO THOMAS, THERE ISN'T, BUT DO NOT BE SAD FOR ME, MY SON! MY LIFE HAS BEEN BETTER, FULLER THAN ANY OTHER BEING WHO EVER LIVED!

BUT PERHAPS THERE IS SOMETHING I CAN STILL DO FOR YOU!

I DO NOT UNDERSTAND.

THE CREATURE. .THE GOD... THEN SENT ME ON AN ERRAND! HE TOLD ME TO SEE THE PHARMACIST IN THE VILLAGE .THAT THERE WERE MAN-MADE CONCOCTIONS THAT EVEN A GOD-CREATURE COULD FIND USE FOR! I DID NOT UNDERSTAND... BUT I WENT!

MY HEART WAS SAD, I REMEMBER! I HAD EXPECTED TO ENCOUNTER MY CREATOR ONLY IN DEATH ...AS MY PRIEST HAD MANY TIMES PROMISED!

MY RELIGIOUS BELIEFS HAD BEEN SHATTERED BY THE PEANUT BUTTER MONSTER WHO DECLARED ITSELF MY GOD!

DANIEL, THE OLD TOWN PHARMACIST, WAS MIXING THE SOLUTION I NEEDED AS I ENTERED HIS DRUG STORE. IT WAS AS THOUGH HE WAS IN A *TRANCE*...OBEYING SOME *FAR-OFF COMMAND*... THE COMMAND OF MY *GOD!*

HE NOR I FULLY *UNDERSTOOD*...! BUT HE GAVE ME THE MIXTURE AND WENT ON WITH HIS WORK AS THOUGH *NOTHING* HAD HAPPENED...

WHEN I ARRIVED *HOME*, I NOTICED THAT MY *WIFE* HAD STILL NOT *RETURNED* FROM THE VILLAGE. SHE HAD NEVER STAYED AWAY THIS LATE BEFORE. HAD SHE BEEN *COMMANDED* NOT TO RETURN HOME JUST YET? I DID NOT KNOW! NOR DID I *CARE!* THE CREATURE OCCUPIED MY *FULL ATTENTION!*

YOU HAVE THE *SOLUTION!* POUR IT *OVER* ME, THOMAS... AND I WILL EXPLAIN ALL...

THIS SOLUTION IS A *PAIN KILLER*, THOMAS! IT DOES NOTHING TO HALT THE PAINS OF MY SLOW *DEATH!* *THAT* I MUST ENDURE AS BEST I CAN!

THIS IS A *PAIN KILLER* FOR *YOU!*

HAD I THE POWER THAT I ONCE HAD, I COULD HAVE *CREATED* THIS SERUM FROM THE *ENERGY*... THE NOTHINGNESS ABOUT US!

BUT THE OLD GET WEAK, THOMAS! WEAK AND *USELESS!* AND AFTER ALL I HAVE DONE I HAVE *NO DESIRE* TO BE *USELESS*.

IN MY DYING MOMENTS I WISH TO CREATE A *NEW BEING* SUCH AS I... A BEING WHO WILL *CARRY ON* WHERE I HAVE *LEFT OFF!*

THIS WORLD... AND THE OTHERS LIKE IT, CAN BE LEFT WITH *NO GOD!*

I WISH *YOU* TO BE THAT GOD, THOMAS!

BUT IT IS A *PAINFUL* PROCESS! *THAT* IS WHY I HAVE HAD THIS PAIN KILLER MADE FOR *YOU!*

I... IT IS *NOT PLEASANT* TO SEE A GOD *DIE*... TO SEE A GOD *DELIRIOUS*...

AS HAVE I **ALWAYS**, I SPEAK THE TRUTH, THOMAS! IT IS **IN MY POWER** TO MAKE YOU AS MYSELF!

YOU WILL **SHARE** MY **BODY**... AND LONG AFTER MY THOUGHTS HAVE DIED OUT, **YOURS** WILL LINGER ON!

YOU WILL **BECOME ME!**

NOW REACH OUT, THOMAS! IF YOU HAVE THE DESIRE TO BE ONE WITH ME, REACH OUT...

AND WE **BOTH** WILL ENDURE THE **PAIN** OF OUR **COMING TOGETHER!**

IT ALL HAPPENED SO FAST, MY DULLED MIND DIDN'T FULLY COMPREHEND THAT IT WAS EVEN **REAL**... UNTIL **NOW!** NOW THE PAIN WAS SO GREAT... SO **INSANELY ACUTE**, THAT I KNEW THIS WAS REALLY HAPPENING TO ME...

BUT **PATIENCE** WAS NEVER MY FORTE! THE **PAIN** WAS SO GREAT, SO ACUTE, THAT I HAD TO BELIEVE IT **NOW**... IN ANY WAY I COULD...

M...MY ARM! WHAT'S HAPPENING? THE **PAIN**...!...IT **HURTS SOOO!**

I UNDERSTAND, THOMAS! BUT IT WOULD BE EVEN MORE UNBEARABLE WITHOUT THE **PAINKILLER**, THOMAS!

I HAD TO **END** IT!

...TO **DEFEND** MYSELF FROM THIS MONSTROSITY THAT CLAIMED TO BE MY CREATOR...

I LASHED OUT...

...AGAIN...

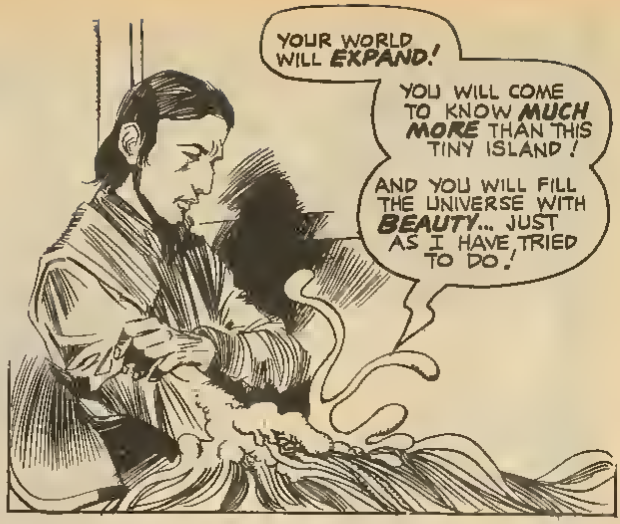
...AND AGAIN...

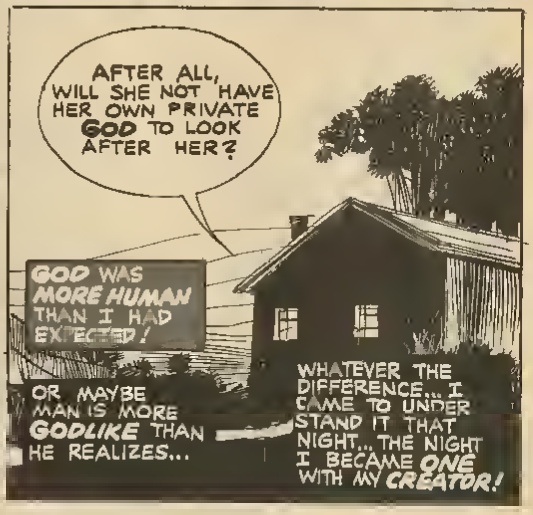
...AND AGAIN...

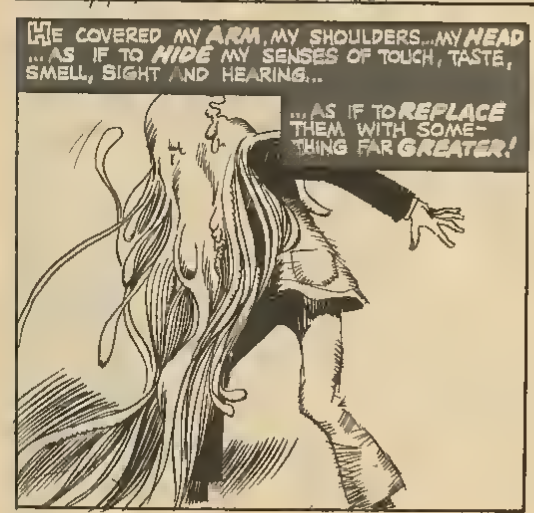
BUT IT **DID NOT STOP!** THERE WAS **NO KILLING** THIS ENERGY-BEING! AS IT CRAWLED UP MY ARM, AND SEIZED MY ENTIRE BODY... I REALIZED THERE WAS **NOTHING** I COULD DO...

... AND THE **PAIN** CONTINUED...

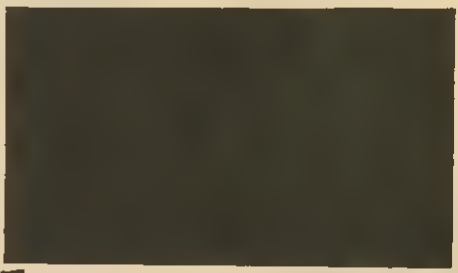
...BUT I SUBMITTED!



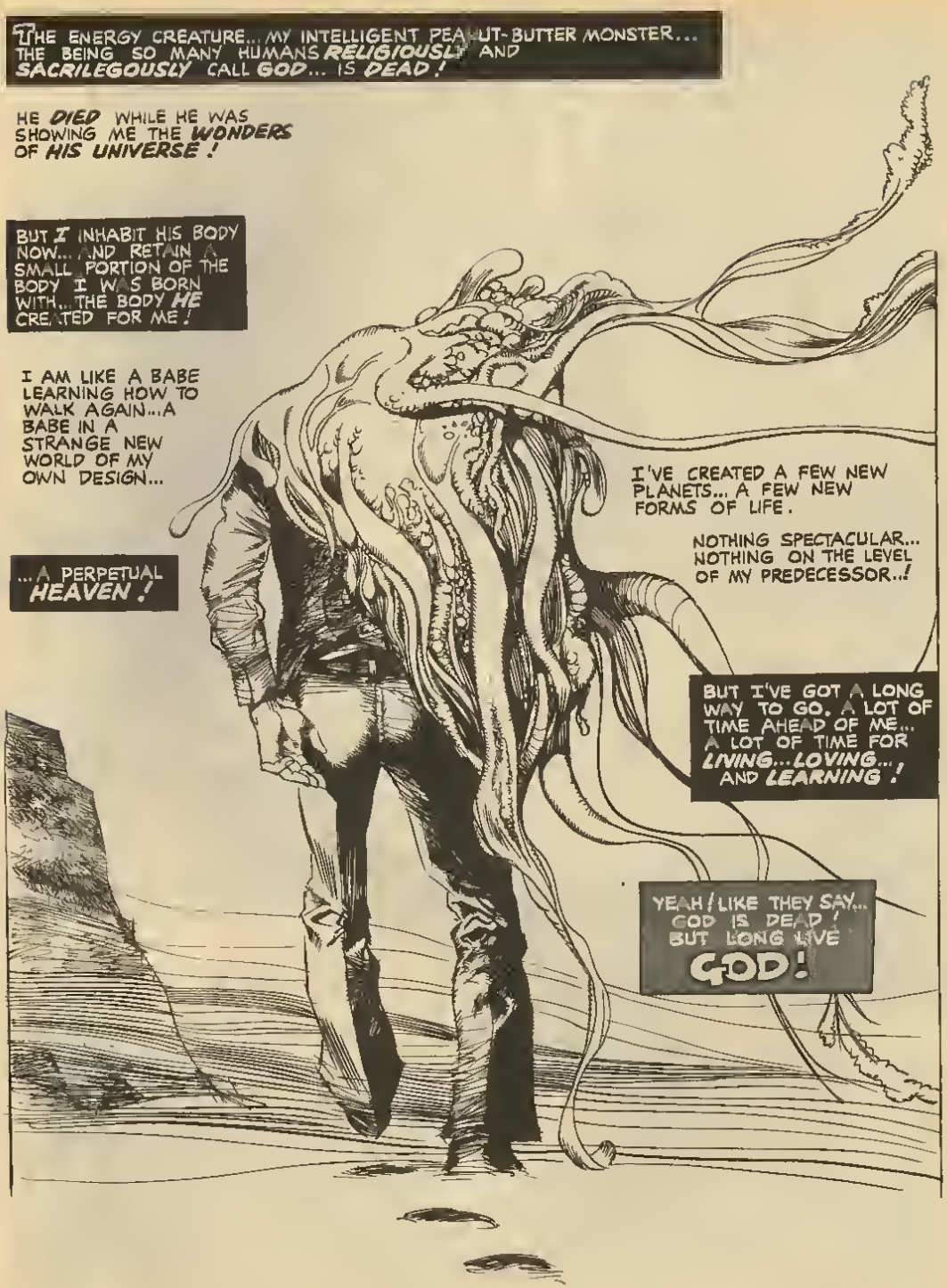




THAT IS THE NIGHT I BECAME WHAT I AM TODAY! THE WORLD I KNEW...WAS BORN INTO, RAISED IN...BECAME LIKE A ONE-DIMENSIONAL BLANK TO ME! I CAME TO NEW SENSES... NEW SENSATIONS! AND I UNDERSTOOD THAT THERE WAS MORE TO THIS UNIVERSE THAN THE LITTLE VILLAGE.



THAT IS THE NIGHT I ENTERED MY OWN PRIVATE HEAVEN!


THE ENERGY CREATURE... MY INTELLIGENT PEANUT-BUTTER MONSTER... THE BEING SO MANY HUMANS RELIGIOUSLY AND SACRILEGOUSLY CALL GOD... IS DEAD!
HE DIED WHILE HE WAS SHOWING ME THE WONDERS OF HIS UNIVERSE!
BUT I INHABIT HIS BODY NOW... AND RETAIN A SMALL PORTION OF THE BODY I WAS BORN WITH... THE BODY HE CREATED FOR ME!
I AM LIKE A BABE LEARNING HOW TO WALK AGAIN... A BABE IN A STRANGE NEW WORLD OF MY OWN DESIGN...
...A PERPETUAL HEAVEN!
I'VE CREATED A FEW NEW PLANETS... A FEW NEW FORMS OF LIFE.
NOTHING SPECTACULAR... NOTHING ON THE LEVEL OF MY PREDECESSOR...!
BUT I'VE GOT A LONG WAY TO GO. A LOT OF TIME AHEAD OF ME... A LOT OF TIME FOR LIVING... LOVING... AND LEARNING!
YEAH! LIKE THEY SAY... GOD IS DEAD! BUT LONG LIVE GOD!

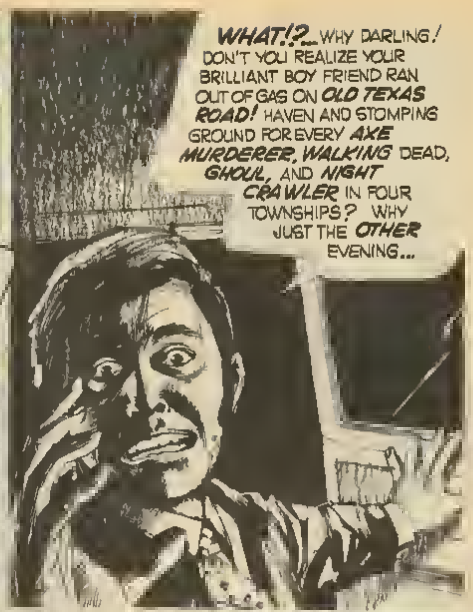
Old TEXAS ROAD

IF YOU WERE BERNIE KENDALL, THERE ARE THREE RULES YOU WOULD FOLLOW DILIGENTLY! *ONE,* IS NOT TO GET A WIFE! *TWO,* IS NOT TO GET CAUGHT WITH SOMEONE ELSE'S WIFE! AND *THREE,* NOT TO GET CAUGHT ON...

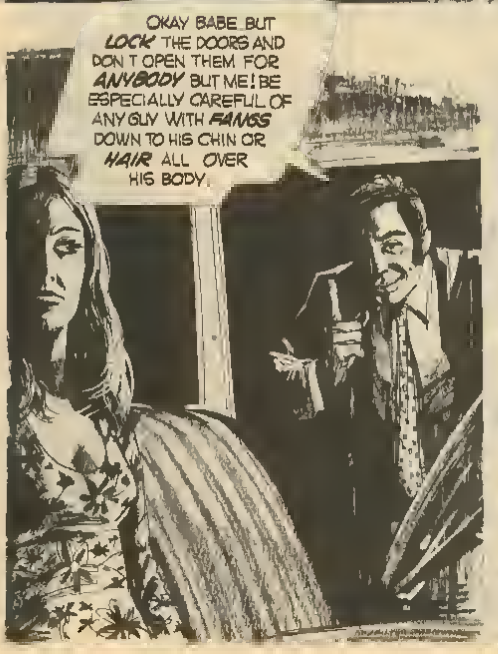
DAMMIT! WE'RE OUT OF GAS!

STORY: BRUCE BEZAIRE / ART: MUNES

THERE'S A STATION ABOUT THREE MILES UP THE ROAD AND IT'S GETTING LATE, SO THE SOONER...
...THE SOONER YOU GET STARTED THE BETTER. I'M WAITING HERE


WHAT!?...WHY DARLING! DON'T YOU REALIZE YOUR BRILLIANT BOY FRIEND RAN OUT OF GAS ON OLD TEXAS ROAD! HAVEN AND STOMPING GROUND FOR EVERY AXE MURDERER, WALKING DEAD, GHOUL, AND NIGHT CRAWLER IN FOUR TOWNSHIPS? WHY JUST THE OTHER EVENING...

STOP IT!! YOU KNOW HOW YOUR MORBID SENSE OF HUMOR FRIGHTENS ME!


OKAY BABE BUT LOCK THE DOORS AND DON'T OPEN THEM FOR ANYBODY BUT ME! BE ESPECIALLY CAREFUL OF ANY GUY WITH FANGS DOWN TO HIS CHIN OR HAIR ALL OVER HIS BODY.

BERNIE!!
I'M GOING! I'M GOING!

THAT *NUT!* *HE* MAY NOT BE SUPERSTITIOUS BUT HE KNOWS *I* CAN BE... I WISH HE WOULDN'T BAIT ME LIKE THAT. NOTHING'S EVER *REALLY* HAPPENED ON TEXAS ROAD.

THOSE GHASTLY STORIES ARE ONLY *RUMORS*, AND I'M JUST GOING TO PUT THEM *OUT* OF MY MIND!

SO *TIRED*... WONDER HOW LONG HE'LL BE...

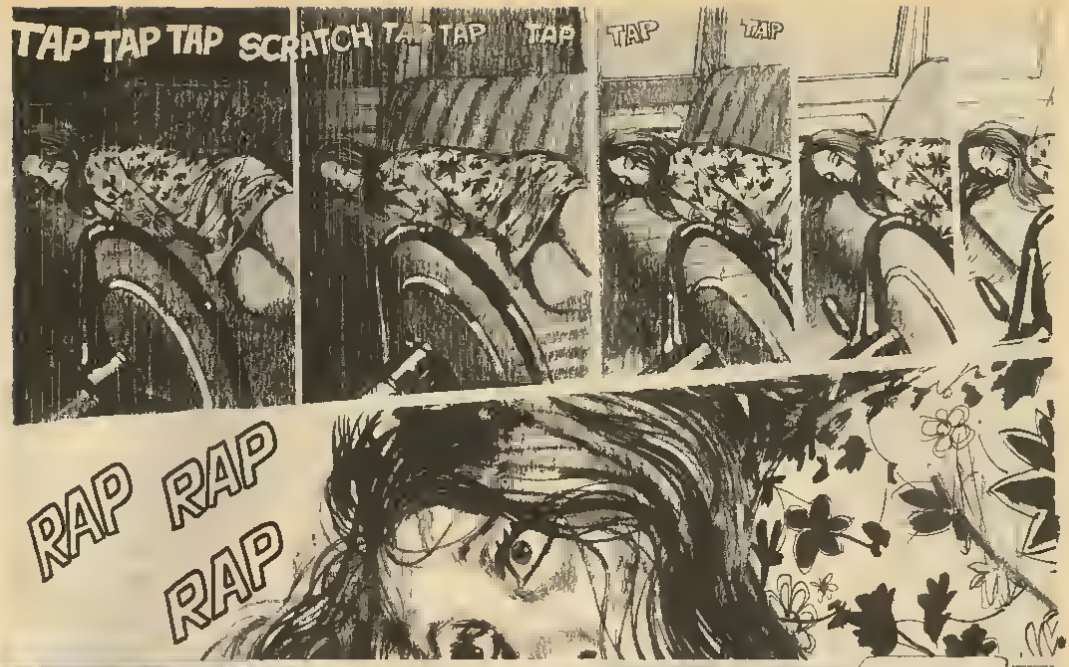
...I COULD JUST...

...DROP OFF..

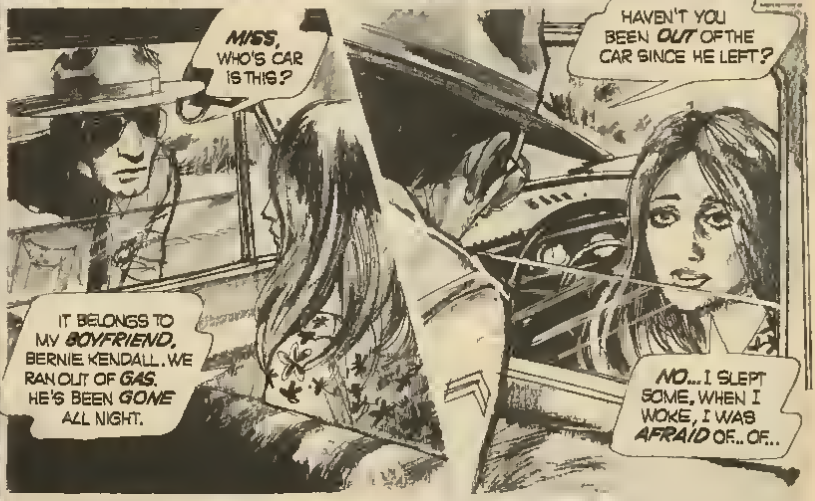
...TO SLEEP...

TAP TAP TAP SCRATCH SCRABLE TAP TAP
...WHA...? BERNIE? IS THAT YOU?
TAP TAP SCRAPE SCRATCH TAP TAP SCRABLE
TH-THERE S SOMEONE.. SOMETHING OUTSIDE .. ON THE ROOF!!
WHAT IS IT? MAYBE I SHOULD LOOK...
.. AXE MURDERERS, GHOULS, WALKING DEAD / DON'T OPEN THE DOORS!!
AN ANIMAL?
SHOO!!
TAP SCRATCH TAP TAP TAP TAP
NO!

TAP TAP TAP SCRATCH TAP TAP SCRABLE
OH GOD... WHY DOESN'T IT STOP?!
GO AWAY!! PLEASE, PLEASE LEAVE ME ALONE!!!
OH, BERNIE! WHERE ARE YOU? I NEED YOU! WHY DIDN'T I GO WITH YOU? I NEVER REALLY BELIEVED THIS! OH, LET IT STOP! STOP... STOP... STOP!!
OH, BERNIE! WHERE ARE YOU?


TAP TAP TAP SCRATCH TAP TAP TAP
TAP TAP
RAP RAP RAP

OH!


MISS, WHO'S CAR IS THIS?
IT BELONGS TO MY BOYFRIEND, BERNIE KENDALL. WE RAN OUT OF GAS. HE'S BEEN GONE ALL NIGHT.
HAVEN'T YOU BEEN OUT OF THE CAR SINCE HE LEFT?
NO... I SLEPT SOME, WHEN I WOKE, I WAS AFRAID OF... OF...

ALRIGHT, MISS, PLEASE COME WITH US...

BUT WHATEVER YOU DO. . DON'T LOOK BACK.
WELL, FRANK, WHAT DO YOU THINK?
LISTEN. I KNOW HE COULDN'T CRY OUT WITH HIS THROAT CUT LIKE THAT. BUT LOOK! HIS ARM REACHES THE ROOF! SHE MUST HAVE HEARD HIM SCRATCHING FOR HELP BEFORE HE BLED TO DEATH.
MY GOD. AT LEAST SHE'D HAVE HEARD HIS BLOOD DRIPPING... WHY DIDN'T SHE GET OUT AND SEE WHAT WAS GOING ON?
DAMNED IF I KNOW.
IT'S HER BOYFRIEND, OK. SHE COULDN'T HAVE STRUNG HIM UP LIKE THIS! MUST HAVE HAPPENED WHILE SHE WAS ASLEEP.

VAMPIRELLA T-SHIRT

WEAR YOUR VERY OWN WASHABLE VAMPI RIGHT NEXT TO YOUR HEART!

Hundreds of you have asked for a VAMPIRELLA T SHIRT — NOW you can have one! The one-and-only Official Authorized Version is available! The VAMPI T SHIRT has been exclusively produced for us by FINN OF NEW YORK & is made of the finest, top quality white cotton. It is COMPLETELY WASHABLE & definitely WILL NOT FADE out after a few washings (as inferior T-shirts often do). Her bright red costume is an eye-catcher & guaranteed to wow & amaze your friends. You'll want to wear it everywhere — Mom will have to take it on your back to wash it! It's a great gift idea too. Order the COLORFUL WASHABLE terrific T Shirt of her Vampiric Majesty VAMPIRELLA Now — In fact, Order 2 shirts & SAVE! She's a knockout!

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☐ I enclose $3.96 plus 50¢ postage & handling (Total $4.46) for each shirt

☐ Send me 2 Shirts for the SPECIAL PRICE of $7.49 & we pay the postage!

CAPTAIN COMPANY
P.O. Box 430, Murray Hill Station
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ARE BACK . . . EXACTLY AS THEY WERE

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ONLY $2.00

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#2439.

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HORROR SHOCKERS

8mm & SUPER 8 MOVIE FILM!

NOW THESE FABULOUS TERROR THRILLERS CAN BE YOUR VERY OWN! THE SAME BIG FILMS YOU READ ABOUT IN FAMOUS MONSTERS CAN COME ALIVE ON YOUR HOME SCREEN. YOU CAN RUN THEM AGAIN AND AGAIN. UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED, FILMS ARE APPROX. 200 FEET IN LENGTH (ABOUT 15 MINUTES OF CHILLS) AND MOST ARE AVAILABLE IN SUPER 8MM AS WELL AS REGULAR 8MM SIZE.

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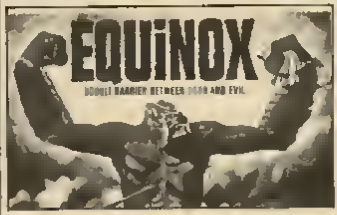
An American construction engineer accidentally blasts a brontosaurus, a tyrannosaurus rex and a prehistoric cave man up from the depths on an isolated tropical island! Lightning shocks them back to life. ONLY IN SUPER 8. 200' reel. Only $7.49



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The search for a missing archaeologist! A weird castle, gigantic footprints, a mysterious cave, and an ancient book—all clues! Beware the supernatural ape-monster and grotesque blue-giant! Unending terror. ONLY IN SUPER 8. 200' reel. $7.49

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America's most mirthful comedians meet the world's most monstrous monsters and that's where the fun begins! Everything goes crazy and Scotland Yard goes mad. 200' reel. Only $7.49

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At last! An atomic age monster! Trapped in the internal blast of a plutonium bomb, the man turns into a beast! Not for the squeamish. A sensational terror treasure. 200' reel. $7.49

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From pre-historic times, a monster is born again to plague the earth! See the terror of the skies! Watch with horror as the monster terrifies nations! Great climax! 200' reel. $7.49

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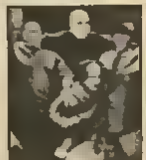
The fantastic story of the "moon killings" in which the slayer kills only during the Full Moon! Great Science Fiction. More frightening than "Frankenstein!" Beware the coming of night-fall and the Full Moon for the killer comes. 200' reel. $7.49



3 STOOGES WE WANT OUR MUMMY

Hired as detectives, our three friends take a side-splitting hilarious taxi ride to Egypt. And when they dare to enter the forbidden Tomb, hysteria results. 200' reel. $7.49

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A great horror film for those vampire fans with a strong heart! Nightmarish terror as the vampire arises from the dead to plague the dancing girl. 200' reel $7.49

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A giant prehistoric monster battles other creatures of a bygone era when awesome beasts ruled the Earth! The super human action is incredible! This fantastic supercreature film must be seen to be believed! Terrifying Special Effects 200 reel Only $7.49

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Starring Tim Holt A new kind of terror to numb the nerves! Crawling up from the depths to terrify and torture Unstoppable horror designed to chill you! 200 reel Only $7.49

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This monster epic features a radio active creature from beneath the sea. The monstrous creature invades London and terrorizes the entire city. Horrifying! 200 reel. Only $7.49

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Is there life on the planet Venus? Eight top scientists visit Venus and discover the remains of a superior civilization that was far more advanced than Earth's 200 reel Only $7.49

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Fantastic film of prehistoric battles between the world's earliest creatures! Was the world really like that? Find out as gigantic dinosaurs fight to death! 200' reel $7.49

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A monstrous spider demolishes a school, terrorizes a town, and traps two teenagers. Students finally lure the giant spider into an electrical trap where it finally meets its doom but not before causing unending havoc. It must eat you to live! 200 reel $7.49

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From the pre-historic past comes a seemingly uncontrollable bird-beast! It attacks with the total destruction of the world as its aim and is finally destroyed by scientific ingenuity and Air Force weapon-power. Fantastic effects 200 reel $7.49

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From his huge spined tusks to his horrid scales and claws Varan tries to annihilate the earth! How he came from the world below and what his plans are gruesome! 200' reel $7.49

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Fleeing from the Transylvania, Dracula (cunningly played by Francis Lederer) assumes the disguise of an artist and a blood chilling story ensues 200 reel Only $7.49

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Amazing and horrifying Gidrah, the beast with three heads. Spine-chilling triple threat! Unbelievably realistic! Prehistoric action like you've never seen before 200' reel Only $7.49

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A beautiful spy from an Asiatic land uses the latest electronic devices to destroy people and steal atomic secrets! Her touch spells death for anyone foolish enough to interfere with the ways of the Black Widow. ONLY IN SUPER 8 200 reel. Only $7.49

MASTER OF HORROR

Spine chilling tales of the weird and unearthly from the masterful pen of America's greatest horror author, Edgar Allen Poe! Only for those who can stand horror beyond human belief! Incredible and bizarre! ONLY IN SUPER 8 200 reel Only $7.49

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When a famous scientist played by Robert Lansing discovers his fiancee and his brother in love, he goes mad and uses a secret formula on himself! ONLY IN SUPER 8 200 reel $7.49

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On a mysterious island an evil man transforms himself into a pirate of 200 years ago and uses powerful rays from a stolen atom to dominate all. ONLY IN SUPER 8 200 reel $7.49

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A scientist creates gigantic monsters to protect a jungle diamond mine! The grotesque creatures terrorize both man and beast in this action-packed struggle in darkest Africa! Death defying terror! ONLY IN SUPER 8 200 reel Only $7.49

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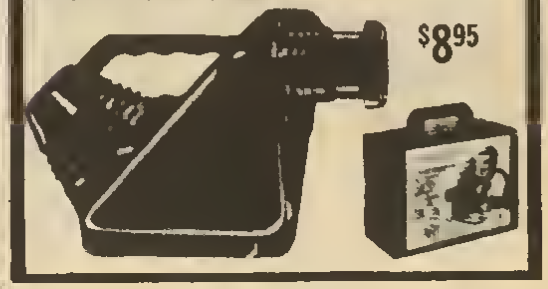

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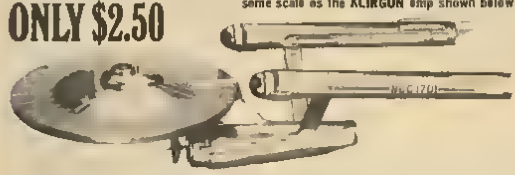

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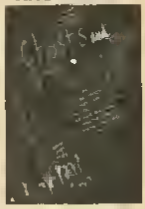

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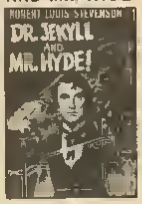

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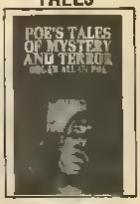

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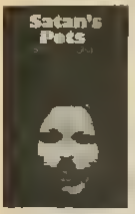

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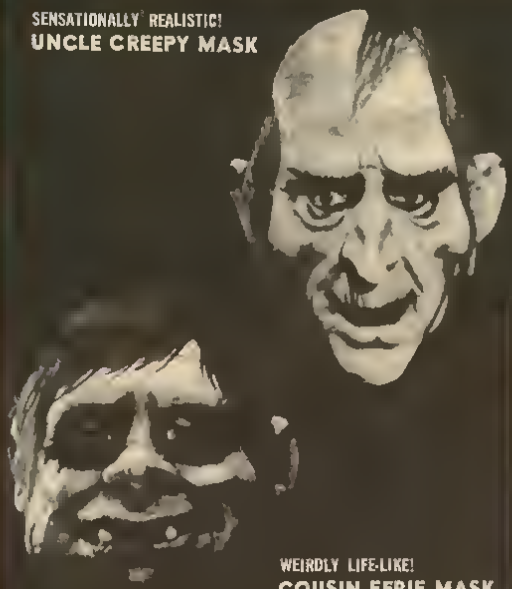

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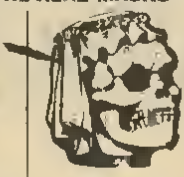
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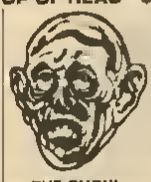
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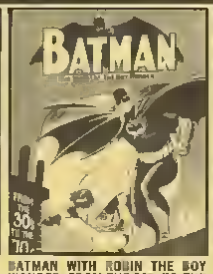

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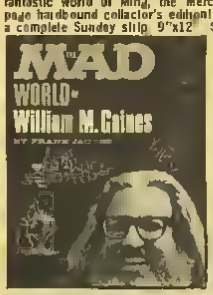

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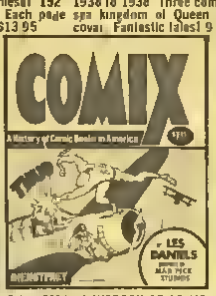

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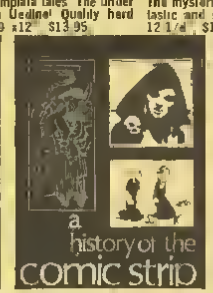

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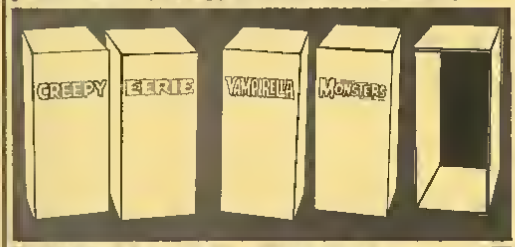

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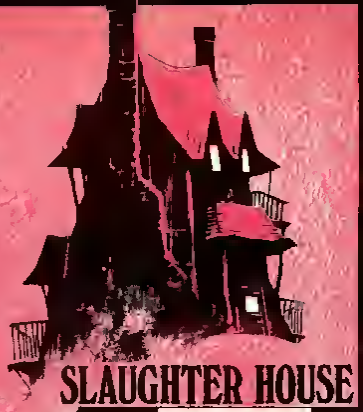

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1 TO ASSEMBLE your game carefully remove the cover from the spine of this magazine Take care not to rip the cover in half when you're taking it off For best results, remove the staples first, then lift off the game intact

2 Clip off the player tokens and the player cards from the left hand side of the game

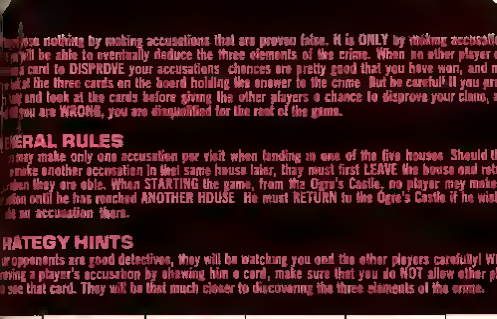
3 Tokens and CARDS should then be pasted to a thin sheet of cardboard (An old cereal box will do nicely)

4. Cut out each CARD along the solid black lines

5. Cut out the player tokens and the base of each token. So that the tokens will stand on their own, cut a thin slit along the dotted line in the token and the token's base Fit slits together, and tokens will stand by themselves

6 Next paste the game board to a sturdy piece of cardboard (This time use the side of a cardboard box.) This will iron out the fold you'll have in your game, and make the playing surface smoother for tokens to stand on It'll also prolong the life of your game

7 Finally, cut out the arrow for the spinner Stick a straight pin through the center of the arrow, making sure that the hole is large enough so the arrow will swivel freely around the pin. A push pin or a thumbtack will work just as well if you don't have a straight pin handy Now you're ready for hours of terrific summer fun Enjoy!



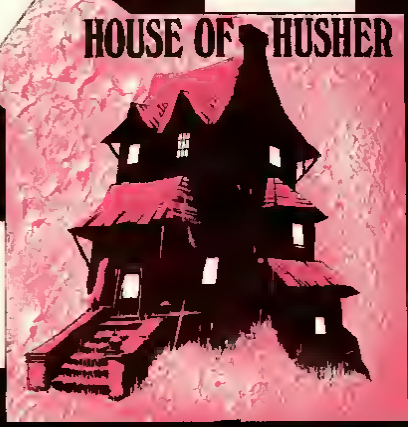
was nothing by making accusations that are proven false. It is ONLY by making accusations
will be able to eventually deduce the three elements of the crime. When no other player can
card to DISPROVE your accusations chances are pretty good that you have won, and may
at the three cards on the board holding the answer to the crime But be careful! If you prove
and look at the cards before giving the other players a chance to disprove your claim, and
you are WRONG, you are disqualified for the rest of the game.

ERAL RULES

may make only one accusation per visit when landing on one of the five houses Should they
make another accusation in that same house later, they must first LEAVE the house and return
when they are able. When STARTING the game, from the Ogre's Castle, no player may make an
tion until he has reached ANOTHER HOUSE He must RETURN to the Ogre's Castle if he wishes
ke an accusation there.

RATEGY HINTS

r opponents are good detectives, they will be watching you and the other players carefully! When
ving a player's accusation by showing him a card, make sure that you do NOT allow other play
see that card. They will be that much closer to discovering the three elements of the crime.



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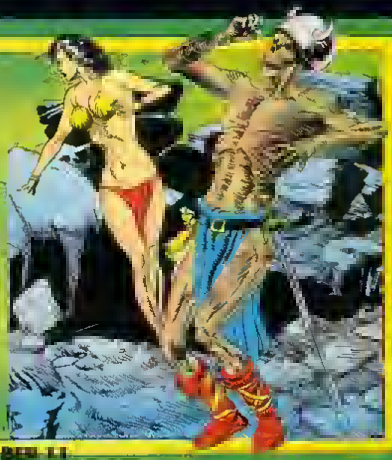

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COMING YOUR WAY ONLY IN EERIE

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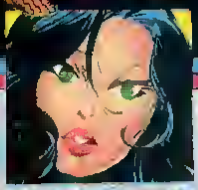

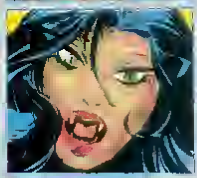

AND IN FUTURE ISSUES OF VAMPIRELLA

There is a legend . . . of a beautiful young girl who is DAMNED . . . forced to hunt the streets at night, in the form of a PANTHER . . . seeking human prey!

PANTHA

UNDEAD OF THE DEEP

Rising from out of the Scottish moors . . . from the depths of LOCH EERIE, comes a heinous creature who has cursed the MacDaemons for two hundred years! It comes searching for easy prey. It comes for VAMPIRELLA!

NEXT ISSUE ON SALE OCTOBER 2